

The fatal accident on board Hong Kong Registered Ship “*Pacific Endeavor*” at Zhenjiang, China on 21 June 2013

1. The Accident

- 1.1 On 21 June 2013, the Hong Kong registered bulk carrier “Pacific Endeavor” was suspiciously flooded with sea water at the void space at the aft transverse bulkhead lower stool of cargo hold No.3. The Bosun proceeded to enter the enclosed space alone without following the company’s Safety Management System and the approval of the Master. The Bosun entered the void space and lost his conscious there. He was sent to hospital for rescue. However, he was certified dead by the hospital on the same date.
- 1.2 The investigation into the accident revealed that the enclosed lower stool space was not properly ventilated before entry. The Bosun was likely he suffered from high concentration of carbon monoxide and oxygen depletion inside the space which was fatal to him.
- 1.3 The investigation had also revealed that the procedures stipulated in shipboard Safety Management Manual (SMM) had not been followed on the entry of enclosed spaces or confined dangerous spaces.

2. Lesson Learnt

- 2.1 The cargo hold transverse bulkhead lower stool space was a confined space. It was obvious that the crew members failed to observe the requirement of the Safety Management Manual (SMM) on board. The officer must ensure the crew to follow the procedures-SOPM-5.3 of SMM before the entry.
- 2.2 The Company should follow the SOLAS Chapter III, Part B, Regulation 19.3 with regard to “enclosed space entry and rescue drills” at least once every two months.