

Fatal accident of a stevedore on board the container vessel “*NYK Orpheus*” at Berth No.7 of Kwai Chung Container Terminals, Hong Kong on 14 June 2014

1. The Accident

1.1 On 14 June 2014, the Japan registered container ship *NYK Orpheus* moored alongside berth No.7 of Kwai Chung Container Terminals, Hong Kong. At about 0800 on 14 June 2014, the works supervisor and stevedores boarded the vessel for container cargo handling works.

1.2 At about 1035, a stevedore, who was walking alone on top of the hatch cover in the vicinity of its edge port side near bay No.7, fell down from a height of about 2 metres onto the deck passage. Nobody witnessed the incident. He was subsequently found lying on the deck passage by a crane operator at about 1050. He was conveyed to the hospital and certified dead on 18 June 2014.

1.3 The investigation revealed that the main contributing factors to the accident:

- (i) He was tripped and lost his balance while walking in the vicinity of the edge of the hatch cover rendered him sustaining fatal injuries at the back of his head after falling down backward from a height of about 2 metres onto the deck passage; and
- (ii) He worked alone and thus lost valuable time for receiving immediate medical treatment as nobody saw him falling at the material time.

2. Lessons Learnt

2.1 The stevedore’s company should issue safety work instructions to its works supervisors and stevedores engaging in cargo handling works on board ships requiring them to take the following safety precautions:

- (a) works supervisors and stevedores should always be cautious when staying or working at height; and
- (b) as far as practicable, works supervisors and stevedores should not work alone on board ships.