

Fatal electrocution accident happened on board Container Ship “*Maple leaf 25*” at anchorage in Shantou, China on 14 May 2015

1. The Incident

- 1.1 On 14 May 2015, the Hong Kong registered container ship “*Maple Leaf 25*” (*the vessel*) was at the anchorage in Shantou, Mainland China waiting for the delivery of a spare main engine turbocharger casing to *the vessel* by a launch for the emergency repair of the main engine prior to sailing. At about 0900, the crew had prepared the lifting appliances and tools so that they could start the work immediately once the delivery launch arrived.
- 1.2 When the launch berthed alongside *the vessel*, the crew used an electric hoist to lift the casing from the launch to the boat deck of *the vessel*. In addition to operating the electric hoist, a manual chain block was also used to shift the casing horizontally until it reached the boat deck aft zone. From there, the casing was lowered down into the engine room through a hatch opening, but it was stuck in the opening.
- 1.3 At 0930, when a fitter tried to shake the lifting chain of the electric hoist by his hands attempting to release the stuck of the casing in the hatch opening, he suffered from electric shock and lost his conscious.
- 1.4 The master called for medical assistance from shore. At about 1015, a rescue launch arrived and the fitter was sent to a hospital at shore. He was declared dead in the hospital on the same day.

2. Lessons learnt

- 2.1 It is important that only marine type electric hoist having an operating voltage compatible with the ship’s supply is to be used on board; in addition, it should be properly maintained and operated within maker’s operation limits. Crew members who use electric hoist as a work equipment, or who supervise its use, should have received adequate training covering the method of use of the equipment, any risks that may arise from its use and any precautions to be taken. A thorough risk assessment and close supervision of the work by a competent person are critical in safely performing lifting operations.