

The fatal accident on board Hong Kong registered bulker carrier “*BBG Carrier*” at Praia Mole anchorage, Brazil on 1 October 2017

1. The incident

- 1.1 On 1 October 2017 between 1945 hours and 2000 hours, a fatal accident happened on board the Hong Kong registered bulk carrier *BBG Bright (the vessel)* which anchored at the No. 3 anchorage of Praia Mole, Brazil. While the bosun was walking up the stairway between A deck and B deck with both his hands holding a set of music audio system, he fell down from the stairway and hit his head seriously to his death. At the material time, the weather was bad with north-east wind force 6 to 7 and wave height of 3 to 3.5 metres. *The vessel* rolled moderately with sudden and heavy rolling intermittently.
- 1.2 The investigation identified that:
- a) the bosun might lose his balance and fell down from the stairway due to a sudden and heavy rolling of *the vessel* and/or under the effect of alcohol; and
 - b) the bosun was lack of safety awareness. He used both hands to hold the three-piece music audio system and did not leave a hand free to hold the handrail when walking up the stairway.

2. Lessons learnt

- 2.1 All crew including the master must take care of themselves when moving around the ship at all times.
- 2.2 Care should always be taken when walking up and down of stairways by holding handrail throughout the walk.
- 2.3 The company’s alcohol policy should be strictly followed.