

# **LOCAL VESSELS SAFETY BULLETIN NO. 01/2025**

## **FALLS FROM HEIGHT ON LOCAL VESSELS**

4 June 2025

To: Shipowners, Agents, Coxswains, Engine Operators,  
and Crew of Hong Kong Local Vessels

### **WHAT HAPPENED**

On 3 July 2023, a fatal accident occurred aboard a local fishing vessel in Shau Kei Wan Typhoon Shelter. The vessel owner fell from a ladder accessing Fish Hold No. 2 onto the hold bottom, 3 meters below the main deck. He sustained severe injuries and passed away in hospital later that day. The full Report of Accident Investigation is available on the Marine Department (MD) website.

### **LESSONS LEARNT**

Falls from height are a leading cause of fatalities in workplaces on land, and not being widely aware unfortunately, on board vessels. To ensure safety of crew required to access spaces via vertical ladders, or work from heights exceeding 2 meters above a lower level, the following measures should be taken by all concerned parties:

1. Conduct risk assessment to identify potential hazards and implement appropriate control measures.
2. Provide and ensure the use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including gloves, safety shoes, helmets, safety belts, fall protection harnesses, etc.
3. Do not work alone.
4. Ensure adequate illumination is provided.
5. Keep all deck openings securely covered when not in active use.
6. Provide and install safe means of access on board your vessel.

Finally, even if 2 meters suggested height is not met, fall protection should be used if there is a risk of a fall from height, regardless of the distance, especially if the potential consequences of a fall are severe.

### **LOCAL VESSELS SAFETY SECTION**

#### **MARINE DEPARTMENT**

#### **GOVERNMENT OF THE HKSAR**