

Marine Department Notice No. 59 of 2010

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Safe means of access to workplace onboard ships

While a dumb steel lighter was undergoing the loading/discharging of containers at Stonecutters Island Public Cargo Working Area, a crew member onboard fell into the cargo hold and died.

2. An investigation of this fatality revealed that the deceased had, without informing other members of crew, proceeded to the second level of the derrick 'A' mast. The deck was oily and the chain fencing over the cargo hold had been unlashed. It is believed that these factors combined with the movement of the vessel during the lifting of containers caused the deceased to slip and fall into the cargo hold.

3. To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, masters and crew of local and river trade vessels should adhere to the following when loading and discharging cargo :-

- all workplaces shall be securely fenced, and the fence shall be maintained in good condition ready for use. Such fence should not be removed unless in the case of necessity, and it should be restored as soon as possible thereafter ⁽¹⁾;
- all crew whether directly engaged in cargo operations or not should wear suitable safety footwear such as slip resistant safety shoes while at work on deck, on container top, in cargo hold or in machinery space ⁽²⁾; and
- any oil spilled on floorings should be cleaned up as soon as possible.

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Director of Marine (Ag.)

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
Date: 27 April 2010
Action file ref.: MAI/P 903/001-2009

(1) Cap. 548I - Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Works) Regulation
(2) Code of Practice on Using Protective Clothing and Equipment for Works on Local Vessels