

Marine Department Notice No. 186 of 2010

(Marine Industrial Accident)

Proper Maintenance of Dock Arm

A dock arm is a lifting appliance used for conveying workers to the vicinity of hull plates of a vessel under repair to carry out grit-blasting or painting in dockyards. On the extremity of the arm, there is a rotating work platform which remains horizontal at different angles of inclination.

2. When a worker was carrying out grit-blasting to the hull of an ocean-going vessel on the work platform of an elevated dock arm of a floating dock, the dock arm collapsed. He fell down together with the dock arm to the bottom of the dock and sustained fatal injuries. The investigation into the accident revealed the following main contributory factors:-

- the stress-bearing parts in the upper coupling and lower support bushes of the dock arm failed; and
- thorough examination of the dock arm had not been carried out.

3. To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, it is important that the management of dockyards and terminals should carry out open-up inspections to the stress-bearing parts of the lifting appliances every four years as stipulated in the Code of Practice for Competent Examiners on the Examination of Lifting Appliances and Lifting Gear on Local Vessels issued by Marine Department.

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