

## **Marine Department Notice No. 75 of 2011**

### **(Marine Industrial Accident)**

#### **Safe Handling of Cargo At Sea**

Two fatal accidents of similar nature happened on board two river trade container vessels recently. In the first case, a sailor was hit by the swinging cargo slings and fell to the cargo hold bottom. In the second case, a sailor after having engaged the slings hooks to the container corner fittings, was hit by slings which suddenly jerked while he was walking to the aft end of the wheelhouse. The sailor subsequently fell to the cargo hold bottom.

2. The investigations revealed that the sailors working on top of the container did not stay away from the cargo slings at a safe distance.

3. To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, the attention of owners, masters and persons-in-charge of all vessels are drawn to the following important advice:

- All persons involved in cargo operations must stay away from cargo slings by a safe distance as they may swing suddenly due to unexpected ship movements at sea;
- Adequate and relevant training is provided to crewmembers handling container cargo on board; and
- Caution must always be taken during cargo operation to avoid heavy swinging of slings.

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