

Marine Department Notice No. 78 of 2011

(Marine Industrial Accident)

Safety at Work On Board Ships

During cargo operation on board a container vessel, a member of the crew fell overboard from the top of a pontoon hatch cover of the cargo hold. His body was found two days later.

2. The investigation into the accident revealed that, during opening of the cargo hold by lifting and stacking up its pontoon covers on top of an adjacent cargo hold, the crewmember leaned over the edge of a stacked-up pontoon hatch cover to detach the lifting hook from its lug. He lost his balance and fell over the ship's side into the sea. At the time of the accident, there was light rain and slight swell. The surface of the pontoon cover was wet and slippery.

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

- There are potential hazards in the lifting of this type of pontoon hatch covers, which requires the crew to be on top of the pontoon stack for attaching / removing the lifting hooks. The Master of the vessel should assess the risk properly and take adequate measures to ensure crew safety while working at height.

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