

Marine Department Notice No. 90 of 2011

(Marine Industrial Accident)

Safe Handling of Cargo At Sea

A local dumb steel lighter used its derrick crane to transfer steel sheet coils from an ocean going vessel to a Chinese registered river trade vessel. During cargo operation, the slewing wire of the derrick crane was parted. It caused the steel sheet coils to swing suddenly and hit at a sailor working on board the river trade vessel. The sailor was certified dead in the hospital.

2. The investigation into the accident revealed the parted slewing wire was in lack of maintenance and lubrication and thus had deteriorated to a point at which the wire yielded prematurely and parted during cargo operation.

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: -

- To ensure all wire ropes used are maintained and lubricated regularly and properly; and
- To ensure all wire ropes are inspected by competent persons as required by the Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels)(Works) Regulations.

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