

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 83 OF 2012

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Safety Precautions in Accessing to Cargo Holds

A fatal accident occurred on board a container vessel undergoing repair at a shipyard in August last year in which a shipyard electrician fell 14 metres down to the bottom of a cargo hold. The investigation into the accident reveals that the electrician was carrying an electric blower in his hand whilst climbing down a fixed vertical ladder to a service platform inside the cargo hold. He lost grip of the ladder and fell across the handrails of the service platform below down to the bottom of the cargo hold.

2. To avoid the recurrence of similar accidents, persons in charge of works, employers, works supervisors, foremen and workers participated in marine works are reminded to adhere strictly to the following safety instructions when accessing to cargo holds, in particular, they should:-

- i) wear work shoes with slip-resistant soles;
- ii) do not hold objects in hands when climbing a ladder, always face the ladder and maintain a three-point contact (two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand);
- iii) neither climb up or down the sides of a ladder nor slide down from a ladder; and
- iv) apply the appropriate means (e.g. use lifting gear with sufficient strength and length) and provide extra manpower, if needed, to transfer an object between levels.

3. This notice replaces Marine Department Notice No. 142 of 2011 issued on 1 December, 2011.

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Director of Marine

Marine Department
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