

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 86 OF 2012

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Keeping a Safe Distance from Area of Cargo Operation

A fatal accident occurred earlier this year in which a crew member of a river trade vessel, whilst proceeding on the deck of an adjacent vessel, was crushed to death by a laden freight container being loaded onto the vessel. While the investigation into the accident is still in progress, preliminary findings reveal that the deceased did not keep a safe distance from the container that was being lifted even though it was clearly visible to him.

2. To prevent the recurrence of similar accidents, owners, masters and crews of river trade and ocean going vessels, cargo operators, workers, works supervisors and persons-in-charge of works are reminded to observe the following safety precautions when proceeding on the deck of a vessel undergoing cargo operation:

- i) wear safety helmets and avoid passing through an area where cargo operations are taking place;
- ii) always keep a watchful eye on any load being slung and maintain a safe distance from its travelling path;
- iii) remain in a safe location while a load is being slung and never stay underneath the load; and
- iv) the person in charge should always be vigilant in keeping unrelated persons from going near to and/or trespassing on area where cargo operations are taking place so as to avoid putting their safety at risk.

Francis H. P. LIU
Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
Date: 15 June 2012
Action File Ref.: SD/MISS/117/1(4)

We are One in Promoting Excellence in Marine Services