

## **Marine Department Notice No. 95 of 2012**

### **(Marine Industrial Safety)**

#### **Shipboard Mid-stream Container Handling**

A fatal accident occurred this year onboard a river trade vessel undertaking mid-stream container handling operation in which a crewmember acted as a slinger was fatally injured after falling down into the cargo hold of the vessel. In the accident, two empty containers were loaded onto two different tiers of a container stack in a single crane lift and the deceased was trying to guide one of the containers into its loading position. The deceased was not aware that he was staying in a 'dead spot' developed during the operation and had put himself in danger.

2. Persons in charge of works and all persons engaged in mid-stream container handling, especially derrick crane operators, stevedores and crewmembers of river trade vessels are urged to observe the following safety precautions:-

- When handling a container in suspension, the slingers involved must always maintain an adequate safe working area. As a general guidance, the working area should not be less than the floorage of three times the size of the container being lifted or lowered.
- When handling a container by top lift slings, the container must be lifted by slings engaged to all its four top corner fittings.
- The person giving signals must ensure that the above safety precautions are observed and all slingers are in a safe position before giving signals to the crane operator to lift or reposition a container.
- Lifting more than one empty container in a single lifting operation has definite safety risks and should be avoided as far as possible. Loading two containers onto two different levels in a single lifting operation should definitely be avoided.

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