

Marine Department Notice No. 13 of 2013

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Working at Heights in Mid-stream Operation

A fatal accident occurred last year onboard a river trade vessel undertaking mid-stream container handling in which a crewmember was fatally injured after falling into the cargo hold of the vessel. Shortly before the accident, the deceased was seen working alone on deck taking a tally of the container serial numbers. But he was later found lying at the bottom of the cargo hold seriously injured. No one had witnessed how the accident happened.

2. The investigation into the cause of the accident is still in progress. To avoid recurrence of similar accidents, 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:-

- Persons engaged in works should keep away from any open edge where there is danger of falling from height.
- When working close to an open edge is unavoidable, the workers should be protected from falling by proper fencing as far as reasonably practicable, otherwise personal protective equipment such as safety belt or harness should be used by the workers.
- Working platforms and walkways should be cleared of obstacles such as stacking cones and wooden wedges to prevent persons from being tripped.
- All workplaces and their connecting passageways should be adequately lit.

Francis H. P. LIU
Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
Date: 24 January 2013
Action File Ref.: SD/MISS 901/1/6/2012