

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 28 OF 2013

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Safe Mid-stream Container Handling

In July 2011, a fatal accident occurred on board a river trade vessel in which a crew member, whilst engaged in unloading the containers on board, was struck by a swinging container and fell to the bottom of the cargo hold. The investigation into the accident revealed that the deceased did not keep a safe distance from the container which was being lifted by the derrick crane of a dumb steel lighter.

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 carrying out mid-stream container handling operations:

- All persons should keep a safe distance from the containers being lifted. They should stay away from the travelling and swinging path of a suspending container and be alert for any sudden movement of the container.
- Persons involved in cargo operation should avoid staying in a “dead spot” where there is no safe means of escape or the means of escape is difficult to gain access to.
- Derrick crane operators should keep tight of the slewing guys, whenever practicable, to prevent excessive movement of the load during lifting. Particular attention should be given when handling containers with uneven load distribution.
- All persons engaged in mid-stream cargo operations must receive the mandatory safety training to ensure that they are aware of the potential dangers involved and the precautionary measures to be taken.

3. This Notice replaces Marine Department Notice No. 143 of 2011 issued on 5 December 2011.

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