

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 92 OF 2013

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Maintenance and examination of lifting appliances and lifting gear

A fatal accident occurred earlier this year in which, during the unloading of sheet metal coils from an ocean going vessel, a stevedore was found seriously injured lying at the bottom of the cargo hold after the fall of two sheet metal coils in suspension. The fall of the sheet metal coils occurred as a consequence of the combined failure of the starboard slewing/topping guy of the vessel's derrick crane and the hoisting slings of the sheet metal coils. While the investigation into the accident is still in progress, preliminary findings reveal that the lifting appliance and the lifting gear used in the accident was not properly maintained and examined.

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 safe practice in the upkeep of the lifting appliances and lifting gear used on vessels:

- a) Establish a lifting gear inventory and maintenance programme. Review the effectiveness of the maintenance schedule constantly and adjust the schedule if necessary.
- b) Identify each lifting gear item and specify clearly its safe working load. Examine, maintain and test regularly.
- c) Examine, maintain and test a lifting appliance properly and promptly as scheduled. Review the effectiveness of the maintenance schedule to cope with the working environment and make adjustments as necessary.
- d) When examining the wire ropes of a lifting appliance, special attention has to be paid to the following locations:
 - i) the termination points of both moving and stationary ropes;
 - ii) that part of the rope which passes through a block or over sheaves;
 - iii) in the case of a lifting appliance performing a repetitive operation, any part of the rope which lies over sheave(s) while the lifting appliance is in a loaded condition;
 - iv) any part of the rope which may be subject to abrasion by external features (e.g. hatch coamings); and
 - v) internals of the ropes, for corrosion and fatigue.

- e) Replace any item not in sound condition.
- f) Assign competent personnel to carry out examination, maintenance and testing of lifting appliances and lifting gear. Document these works carried out timely and precisely.

Francis H. P. LIU
Director of Marine

Marine Department
Government of the HKSAR
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