

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 142 OF 2014

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Upkeep of Inflatable Lifejackets

A fatal accident occurred in July this year. A handyman working on board a crane barge at a marine construction work site, whilst handling a stanchion at the shipside out of the fenced deck area, fell overboard and got drowned. While the investigation into the accident is still in progress, preliminary findings reveal that the inflatable lifejacket worn by the handyman failed to inflate to provide the necessary flotation aid.

2. To prevent the recurrence of similar accidents, owners, masters and crew members of vessels, employers, workers, works supervisors and persons-in-charge of works engaged in marine works are reminded to observe the following safety practice in the upkeep of the inflatable lifejackets:

- a) Establish an inflatable lifejacket inventory; maintain a record of the distribution, servicing and replacement of lifejackets by referring to their serial numbers or other identification notations;
- b) provide user information, like type of operation (manual/automatic), buoyancy (capacity), of the inflatable lifejacket and its next servicing date;
- c) provide training to users in donning, using and checking of inflatable lifejackets;
- d) arrange promptly annual servicing of the inflatable lifejackets by their maker's authorized service agent or replace them with new ones of acceptable standards; and
- e) do not remove the inflation gas cylinder from a lifejacket when donning.

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