

## **Marine Department Notice No. 151 of 2014**

**(Marine Industrial Safety)**

### **Safe Cargo Handling**

A fatal accident had occurred at the quayside of a Public Cargo Working Area while workers were undertaking cargo handling operation. A stevedore working at the quayside was hit by a hoisting bundle of angle steel bars. He was sent to hospital and later certified dead.

2. The preliminary investigation into the accident revealed that the deceased engaged in cargo handling work had failed to follow the safety practices stipulated in the “Shipboard Cargo Handling Safety Guide” (Safety Guide) published by the Marine Department. The accident could have been avoided if the following safe working practices were followed:-

- Workers should always be aware of the risks and not place themselves in the “dead-spot”.
- A signaller should be employed unless the crane operator has an unrestricted view of the load at all times during cargo operation.
- Derrick crane fall should be placed vertically above the centre of gravity of the cargo to avoid excessive swing of cargo while being lifted.

3. Owners, agents, masters or coxswains of local vessels, Mainland coaster and river-trade vessels, stevedoring contractors, works supervisors, employers and persons in charge of shipboard cargo handling operations in the waters of Hong Kong, are reminded to observe and ensure that the above safe working practices and those stipulated in the Safety Guide are strictly followed.

4. The Safety Guide can be downloaded from the following Marine Department website:  
[http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub\\_services/ocean/miss\\_guides.html](http://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/pub_services/ocean/miss_guides.html)

**H.M. TUNG**  
**Director of Marine (Ag.)**

Marine Department  
Government of the HKSAR  
Date: 25 November 2014  
Action File Ref.: L/M No.116/2014 in SD/MISS/117/1(5)