

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 46 OF 2015

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Fatal accident happened to a slinger while working under a hot environment

The Incident

A fatal accident happened on a locally-licensed dumb steel lighter (*the lighter*) when loading bundles of steel bars from an ocean going vessel to the lighter at the Western Anchorage No.1. A slinger was seriously injured and subsequently died.

2. A crane operator and two slingers were working on board the lighter. The cargo operation commenced in the morning and was suspended at noon for lunch. It continued in the afternoon until a break. After the break, one of the slingers (*the slinger*) was found lying on the lower layer of bundles of steel bars. He was badly injured and unconscious. The slinger was conveyed to a hospital and was certified dead after a few days.

3. At the time of the accident, the weather was hot at about 33°C with light air. Waves were generated by passing by vessels.

4. The investigation revealed that the probable causes of the accident were that:

- (i) working under a temperature of about 33°C inside the cargo hold that was not well ventilated detrimentally affected the slinger's physical condition; and
- (ii) when he was moving on top of the upper layers of stacked bundles of steel bars, the slinger lost his balance or slipped and fell down from height.

Lesson learnt

5. The attention of the owners, supervisors and persons-in-charge of locally-licensed vessels is drawn to the important lessons learnt from the above accident as follows.

6. When crew or other persons engaged in works:
- (i) are working under a hot and poorly ventilated environment on board vessels (such as inside cargo holds), they should be reminded to pay attention to their health conditions, drink plenty of water and take adequate rest; and
 - (ii) are required to move on top of unevenly stacked cargoes, they should be made aware of the risk of losing balance or slipping and falling from height.

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