

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 179 OF 2015

(Marine Industrial Safety)

A stevedore was fatally injured after falling down from cargo hatch cover

The Incident

1. A total of four groups of stevedores worked onboard a container ship which was berthing alongside of a container terminal. Each group consisted of four stevedores.

2. At the time of the accident, one of the stevedores (the victim) of a group worked alone on the top of a cargo hold hatch cover when the other three were taking rest. The victim fell from the hatch cover of about two metres in height to the deck. He was later found lying on the deck by a crane operator. The other stevedores were then informed to rescue him. Although the victim was subsequently sent to a hospital, he was certified dead after four days in the hospital.

3. The investigation revealed that the main contributory factors to the accident were:

- the victim lost his balance and fell from a height of about two meters to the deck when he was working alone on the top of a hatch cover that caused him sustaining fatal injuries on the back of his head; and
- the victim worked alone and thus losing valuable time for receiving immediate medical treatment as nobody saw his falling at the time of the accident.

Lessons learnt

4. In order to avoid recurrence of a similar accident, it is important that any crew member or person working on board ship should always be cautious when staying or working at height and should not work alone, as far as practicable.

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