

MARINE DEPARTMENT NOTICE NO. 163 OF 2019

(Marine Industrial Safety)

Safe Handling of Bulk Cargo

A fatal accident occurred on board a river trade bulk carrier during the course of unloading bulk cargo at the seaside of Tsing Yi in April 2019. A crew standing on the top of hatch coaming, whilst pushing the powdery cargo adhered to the wall of cargo hold with a long spade, lost his balance and fell into the hopper shaped cargo hold. The crew fell through an opening at the bottom of the cargo hold and was carried together with the bulk cargo to shore by the conveyor belt installed underneath the opening.

2. To avoid the recurrence of similar accident, works supervisors, persons in charge of works including masters/coxswains, owners and managers of river trade bulk carriers or vessels alike should observe following safe working practices:

- i) to assess the risk of works, establish safe working procedures and ensure that persons employed strictly follow the procedures;
- ii) to ensure that protective equipment is adopted by the persons employed whenever necessary; and
- iii) to perform effective supervision of works to prevent breach of safe working procedures and practices.

S. F. WONG
Director of Marine (Ag.)

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