



Marine Industrial Safety Alert

A lighterman was struck to death by the fallen derrick crane hoisting pulley assembly

- 1) **Date of Accident:** March 2020
- 2) **Time of Accident:** Morning
- 3) **Place of Accident:** In the waters of To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter
- 4) **Vessel involved:** Dumb lighter
- 5) **Summary:**

A dumb steel lighter anchored inside To Kwa Wan Typhoon Shelter to carry out the demolishing of some large rock filled steel containers removed from a marine construction site. The steel containers were placed in the cargo hold of lighter and were cropped to pieces for further disposal. In a morning, the steel containers in lighter's cargo hold had been cropped to remaining only the container bottom. They were required to turn over to pour out the rocks remained inside. To facilitate the lifting of the container bottoms, two lightermen attached 2 large hoisting slings to the main hoist of lighter's derrick crane. Right after their work was done, the cargo fall of the auxiliary hoist suddenly snapped and, subsequently, the hoisting hook and the associated pulley assembly fell down. Unfortunately, one of the lightermen working underneath was hit by the fallen gear. The lighterman sustained fatality injury.

Investigation of the accident is being carried out.

- 6) **Safety alert:**
 - As a best practice, all lifting appliance and lifting gear should be visually inspected and function tested before apply to work.
 - Adequate and effective supervision of work should be provided. Risk assessment and safe working procedure should be repeated to persons employed when necessary.
- 7) **Applicable legislation:**
 - Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Works) Regulation (Cap. 548I), sections 26 and 27 – “General safety requirements regarding lifting appliances and lifting gear”
 - Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Works) Regulation (Cap. 548I), section 23 – “General duties of persons in charge of works and employers”

DISCLAIMER

This Safety Alert ("the Alert") is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to draw the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as masters of vessels / owners / persons in charge of works and supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Marine Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.