



Marine Industrial Safety Alert

A Mainland Chinese crew fell down to the bottom of cargo hold in a container loading operation

- 1) **Date of Accident:** March 2022
- 2) **Time of Accident:** Evening
- 3) **Place of Accident:** In the waters off a container depot
- 4) **Vessel involved:** River Trade Vessel
- 5) **Summary:**

In an evening, a river trade vessel moored to the side of a dumb lighter berthing at the quay of a container depot for loading of containers. A load of 3 empty containers was lifted from shore by the derrick crane of the dumb lighter and loaded to the 3rd tier level of the containers in the cargo hold. Two crews on the river trade vessel were engaged to disengage the lifting slings from the containers. Whilst they were doing so, one of the crew lost his balance and fell 7.8m down to the bottom of the cargo hold. The crew was hospitalized and was later certified dead in the hospital.

Investigation of the accident is being carried out.

- 6) **Safety alert:**
 - As a best practice, when handling containers by top lift slings, a load of not more than 2 empty containers should be handled at a time.
 - Persons working at high level or any unfenced edges should always be alert of the danger of falling from height. Precautionary measures should always be provided when- and where-ever possible.
- 7) **Applicable legislation:**
 - Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Works) Regulation (Cap. 548I), section 61 – “Safe means of access to and safe working on container top, etc.”

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.