



Marine Industrial Safety Alert

A Mainland Chinese crew was struck to death by a load of cargo during an unloading operation

- 1) **Date of Accident:** December 2022
- 2) **Time of Accident:** Morning
- 3) **Place of Accident:** In a public cargo working area
- 4) **Vessel involved:** River Trade Vessel
- 5) **Summary:**

A river trade vessel arrived at a public cargo working area and berthed alongside to unload the bagged sand on board. The unloading operation was commenced later after vessel was berthed. 3 crews were engaged as slingers, while the lifting of the bagged sand to shore was carried out by a crane on shore. About an hour later, a load of 6 bags of sand was connected to the crane hook. A crew signaled to lift the load. Soon after the load was lifted, it swayed towards the port cargo hold wall. A crew failed to remove himself in time was struck by the load of bagged sand. He was hence injured and was ultimately passed away due to the severe injury.

Investigation of the accident is being carried out.

- 6) **Safety alert:**
 - As a best practice, when lifting of any load, the lifting has to be made upright. This is to avoid any unnecessary swaying of the load after it was raised.
 - Person engaged in cargo handling operation should remain conscious at all time, pay particular attention to the change of working environment, and stay far away from any lifting activity.
- 7) **Applicable legislation:**
 - Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Works) Regulation (Cap. 548I), section 23 – “General duties of person in charge of works and employers”
 - Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Works) Regulation (Cap. 548I), section 24 – “Persons employed to take care of others while at work and to cooperate with works supervisor”

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.