



Marine Industrial Safety Alert

A worker was found unconscious and died in a compartment during coal unloading operations on board a vessel

- 1) **Date of Accident:** May 2026
- 2) **Time of Accident:** In the morning
- 3) **Place of Accident:** Terminal
- 4) **Vessel involved:** An ocean-going vessel (OGV)
- 5) **Summary:**

Recently, an ocean-going bulk carrier berthed at a terminal was engaged in coal unloading operation. Prior to the incident, three workers were assigned to clear residual coal from different holds onboard. One of the workers was subsequently missing. After a search, the worker was found unconscious in one of the lower compartments. He was immediately taken to the hospital for emergency treatment but was eventually certified dead.

Investigation of the accident is being carried out.

- 6) **Safety alert:**
 - Persons in charge of works and employers shall provide such information, training and supervision as may be necessary to ensure, in so far as reasonably practicable, the safety of a person employed at work.
 - No works shall be carried out on, to or by means of a vessel unless the works are carried out under the supervision of at least one works supervisor.
 - Effective and suitable arrangements shall be made for the adequate ventilation of every workplace and every other part of a vessel to which a person employed is permitted or required to proceed in the course of his employment.
- 7) **Applicable legislation:**
 - Shipping and Port Control (Works) Regulation (Cap. 313 sub, leg X), section 23 – “General duties of persons in charge of works and employers”
 - Shipping and Port Control (Works) Regulation (Cap. 313 sub, leg X), section 18 – “Works to be supervised by works supervisors”
 - Shipping and Port Control (Works) Regulation (Cap. 313 sub, leg X), section 10 – “Ventilation and protection against fumes, 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.