



Marine Industrial Safety Alert

A Mainland captain sustained fatal injuries after falling from the top of a container aboard a river trade vessel

- 1) **Date of Accident:** September 2026
- 2) **Time of Accident:** In the morning
- 3) **Place of Accident:** At the waters of an anchorage area
- 4) **Vessel involved:** A river trade vessel (RTV)
- 5) **Summary:**

Recently, a RTV was moored alongside a dumb steel lighter in a designated anchorage area for container loading operations using the lighter's derrick crane.

The captain and three crew members of the RTV were responsible for the operations onboard. Upon completion of loading the first batch of containers, the crew members returned to the ship's accommodation area for a break. Shortly after, the captain was found trapped in the clearance between the third-tier containers and the bottom of the aft starboard bulkhead. The captain was conscious when found and was rushed to the hospital, but unfortunately passed away later.

The investigation into the accident is currently underway.

- 6) **Safety alert:**
 - Measures shall, in so far as reasonably practicable, be taken to ensure the safety of a person employed at work.
 - No cargo handling shall be carried out by a person unless the person holds a valid certificate in respect of the relevant safety training course or such other certificate relating to safety training recognized by the Director.
- 7) **Applicable legislation:**
 - Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Works) Regulation (Cap. 548 sub, leg I), section 23 – “General duties of persons in charge of works and employers”
 - Merchant Shipping (Local Vessels) (Works) Regulation (Cap. 548 sub, leg I), section 54 – “Persons carrying out cargo handling are to hold certificates”
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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.