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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT**  
Private Bag X193  
**PRETORIA**  
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**3 July 1996**

## **MARINE NOTICE NO. 13 OF 1996**

*TO ALL PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SHIPOWNERS, SHIP'S AGENTS, AND MASTERS OF VESSELS, AND ALL OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND PERSONS INVOLVED IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY*

### **POTENTIAL DANGERS: ENTERING OF CARGO HOLDS CARRYING TIMBER**

1. International sources have recently reported on life threatening hazards that exist when unsuspecting cargo workers have entered the enclosed holds of ships carrying logs/timber in bulk, without taking the necessary precautions. Such unwitting actions have, on occasion, resulted in death by asphyxiation.
2. The sawn logs of apparently dead trees, according to the report, still breath and thereby lower the oxygen content of well sealed holds to life threatening levels. This can cause rapid unconsciousness and eventual death to unsuspecting workers who may enter unventilated spaces of this nature.
3. Shipping lines and stevedoring companies in particular, should take note of this potential hazard to worker safety.

for DIRECTOR-GENERAL: TRANSPORT

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