

South African Maritime Safety Authority



Marine Notice No. 7 of 2009

The Danger of conducting Hatch Cleaning and Cargo Operations simultaneously in the Same Hold

TO ALL PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, STEVEDORING COMPANIES, LABOUR BROKERS, SHIPS MASTERS AND AGENTS

Summary

This notice advises the South African stevedoring industry, Master's of ships working cargo in South African ports and ships' agents of the risks of hatch cleaning and cargo operations conducted at the same time in the same hold.

Following the serious injury to a hatch cleaner in the hold of a vessel the following points are to be noted by all concerned:

Steel coils were being discharged from no 2 lower hold aft portside by stevedores using an 18 ton forklift. On the other side of the centre bulkhead in the same hold, hatch cleaning activities were underway in the fore part using scaffolding.

During the course of hatch cleaning operations, the scaffolding was moved to the starboard after part of no 2 lower hold. The forklift operator, unaware that the scaffolding had moved, reversed from the portside through the centre bulkhead and into the newly positioned scaffolding. The collision resulted in one of the hatch cleaners falling from the scaffolding and sustaining serious head injuries.

Hatch cleaning operations where scaffolding is necessary and cargo operations using moving equipment should not take place in the same hold.

No work must be conducted onboard a ship, at heights, without the use of fall prevention equipment.

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