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貴署檔案 Your Ref. : ---

本處檔案 Our Ref. : SD/S 800/1

16 October 2020

To: Shipowners, Ship Managers and Ship Masters

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Crew carrying out top-up fumigant in cargo holds
when vessel is en route**

We would like to draw your attention to a recent fatal accident happened on board a Hong Kong registered ships highlighting the risk of performing topping up of fumigant in a cargo hold. The case is still under investigation.

As stipulated in the Merchant Shipping (Safety) (Carriage of Cargoes and Oil Fuel) Regulation (Cap.369AV), the master or owner of the ship shall ensure that the pesticide is so used as to minimize the risk created by the use of such pesticide to the health of any person on board the ship.

The master and owner of the ship shall ensure that the crew members assigned with fumigation duties are adequately trained by a professional fumigation company, and provided with appropriate personal protective equipment and gas monitoring devices. Risk assessment for the fumigation should be carried out before proceeding to sea and procedures established to mitigate the risks identified. All crew members should be made fully aware of the hazards identified and the procedures to respond to them. The risk assessment should be properly recorded. All relevant local regulations and guidelines provided by the authority of loading port, the fumigation company, IMO circulars MSC.1/Circ.1264 and MSC.1/Circ.1358 should be observed.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us by email at ss_css@mardep.gov.hk.

Yours faithfully,

(Nelson C.W. Ho)

Senior Surveyor of Ship / Cargo Ships Safety Section
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for Director of Marine