



Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung

Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation

Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation • P.O. Box 30 12 20 • 20305 Hamburg

Office Building
Bernhard-Nocht-Str. 78
20359 Hamburg
Tel.: + 49 (0) 40 31 90 – 83 11
Fax: + 49 (0) 40 31 90 – 83 40
posteingang@bsu-bund.de
<http://www.bsu-bund.de>

Leitweg ID 991-14090-76

Your reference
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My reference
(please state on reply)
103/21

+ 49 40 31 90 – 8311

email: posteingang@bsu-bund.de

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The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) published the interim investigation report pertaining to the fatal accident of a crewmember on board the container vessel SEOUL EXPRESS on March 27, 2021. The interim investigation report provides information on the subject, the course and the current state of the investigation. The report is available on:

https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Publications_node.html

Very Serious Marine Casualty – Accident with Subsequent Loss of Life on Board SEOUL EXPRESS

On the morning of March 27, 2021 at around 0800 onboard time (UTC-6), a crew member of the German-flagged containership SEOUL EXPRESS fell from a vertical ladder in cargo hold No. 3 and lost his life. At the time of the accident, the casualty was alone on the daily round to check the temperature of dangerous goods containers at the end of his morning watch. In accordance with standard procedure, he reported to the navigating officer on watch via hand-held radio when entering and leaving each cargo hold. Due to an overdue report, a search was initiated by the Chief Officer and the casualty was then quickly found on the lowest deck of the hold. After the casualty was found to be in need of resuscitation, he was immediately evacuated from the hold. However, all subsequent resuscitation attempts were unsuccessful.

The investigation has been completed. Due to a lack of witnesses and other evidence, the root cause of the accident could not be determined. Various general conditions

could be ruled out as causes or contributing factors. However, during the investigation, various aspects were identified as potential contributing factors that had already been identified as such in comparable accidents. The report announced for the second quarter will therefore contain safety recommendations.

All investigation reports, safety recommendations as well as other publications of the BSU are available on

https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications/Unfallberichte/Unfallberichte_node.html

Ulf Kaspera
Director