



Bundesstelle für Seeunfalluntersuchung

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The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation (BSU) hereby announces the publication of the Investigation Report 103/21 on the fatal occupational accident of a crewmember on board the container vessel SEOUL EXPRESS on March 27, 2021. The report is available for download at

<https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/News>

Very Serious Marine Casualty – Accident with subsequent Loss of Life on board SEOUL EXPRESS

On the morning of March 27, 2021 at around 08:00 hrs onboard time (UTC-6), a crew member of the German-flagged container ship 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 nautical 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 a tween 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.

Due to a lack of witnesses and other evidence, the exact cause of the fall 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 similar accidents.

Room for improvement was identified in the areas of occupational health and safety, shipbuilding, emergency response management, safety culture as well as occupational safety and procedural instructions. Safety recommendations were addressed to the Federal Ministry of Digital and Transport, the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the ship operator of the SEOUL EXPRESS, the Ship Safety as well as the Prevention Division of BG Verkehr as well as DNV as the ship's classification society.

All investigation reports, safety recommendations and other information published by the BSU are available at

<https://www.bsu-bund.de/EN/Publications>.

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Director