

Investigation Report 146/05

15. February 2006

very serious marine casualty:

Fatal work accident on board MV WERDER BREMEN on 27 April 2005 in Santa Cruz de Tenerife

1 Summary of the marine casualty

At about 19.30¹ h on 27.04.2005 a fatal work accident occurred on board the German container vessel WERDER BREMEN. During work on deck in the port of Santa Cruz de Tenerife a crew member fell from a height of approx. 7 m from the hatch cover onto the pier. The seaman had been in a lashing passage on hatch 2. Here the hatch cover extends up to the outer side of the vessel. There were no structural measures to prevent falling over board at this place. The seaman was not wearing any personal fall protection equipment.

2 Safety Recommendations

The BSU recommends that all operators of vessels flying the German flag and the vessel commands, the crews and the safety officers observe the safety at work requirements against falling resulting from the Accident Prevention Regulations and check observance of these on board their vessels. Above all, permanent safeguards should be fitted at dangerous points. Mobile safeguards or protective equipment against falling are always the poorer means. It is recommended that the operators of the vessels of building series 160 from Sietas Werft equip their vessels with permanently installed ladders at both sides of the lashing passage between bays 3 and 5. This will prevent dangerous climbing onto and descending from the hatch coaming and incorrect use of mobile ladders for leaning. The attention of the crew members should be drawn to the special purpose of the ladders supplied by Sietas Werft. The See-Berufsgenossenschaft, vessel commands and safety officers of the vessels are called upon to pay greater attention to the technical condition of the mobile ladders on board during their checks. Missing parts should be replaced expertly, heavily corroded ladders should be removed.

¹ All times are ship's time, ship's time = UTC + 2 hours; local time = UTC + 1 hour.