

Investigation Report No. 337/14

Date: 13 July 2016

Serious marine casualty

Fatal accident on board the MV SILVER PEGASUS in the port of Brake on 20 September 2014

1 Summary

On the morning of 20 September 2014, the MV SILVER PEGASUS, sailing under the flag of Panama, was moored in the port of Brake to discharge her cargo of soybean meal. When cargo hold 3 (CH3) was empty, the watchkeeping second officer climbed down its ladder to check the compartment.

At about 0030¹, the able bodied seamen called the second officer on VHF but did not receive an answer. As a consequence of that, they looked down into the cargo hold and saw him lying there on the floor.

One able bodied seaman climbed down to provide first aid and the other went to the superstructure to inform the ship's command. The ship's command called an ambulance, which took the casualty to a hospital. Despite every effort made, the second officer passed away on the same evening.

2 SAFETY RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 Ship's command of the SILVER PEGASUS

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation recommends that the ship's command of the SILVER PEGASUS instruct its crew to use only the spiral steps when entering cargo holds.

2.2 Owner of the SILVER PEGASUS

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation recommends that the owner of the SILVER PEGASUS consider installing personal fall protection equipment on the cargo hold ladders to arrest a fall.

2.3 Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure

The Federal Bureau of Maritime Casualty Investigation recommends that the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure advises the International Maritime Organization to check whether the SOLAS convention should be amended by a requirement to use a personal fall arrest system on entering an empty cargo hold when a certain height is reached.

¹ Unless stated otherwise, all times shown in this report are local = UTC +1.