

## **M.S. Notice 1 of 1998**

During the dry docking of an Indian ship in one of the foreign dry docks an explosion followed by a severe fire occurred in the Engine Room of the ship.

The circumstances which caused the explosion and the subsequent fire, are as indicated below:

- A. The vessel was handed over to the dry dock personnel, in as far as the safety and fire prevention of the vessel was concerned. This was clearly indicated by a notice to ship's personnel by the dry dock authorities.
- B. The dry dock personnel were engaged in gas cutting the nuts and bolts of a flange, which was located in the vicinity of a fuel tank in the Engine Room.
- C. It is inferred that the explosion occurred due to the said gas cutting carried out by the dock yard personnel.

As a result of the above explosion and fire 10 shore personnel belonging to the dock yard lost their lives. The shore fire fighting personnel could not rescue them since the escape routes were not marked in the local language.

### **LESSONS TO BE LEARNED**

1. A careful examination and assessment of the location should be carried out prior to undertaking any hot work.
2. Escape routes and emergency exits should be clearly identified and made known to the shore personnel prior to handing over charge of the ship.
3. A continuous vigil by ships officers on various repairs activities even under above circumstances is imperative.

Sd/-  
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