

Marine Department Notice No. 77 of 2011
(Navigational & Seamanship Safety Practices)

Safety in connecting portable electrical equipment on board

A fisherman was electrocuted while connecting a portable bilge pump to the power extension cables on board a fishing sampan.

2. Investigation into the accident revealed that:
 - i) the source of electrical supply to the sampan was not properly connected to a power socket;
 - ii) the bilge pump did not have a proper power plug for connection to a power socket; and
 - iii) the fisherman was exposed to live electricity when connecting the bilge pump to the electrical supply.

3. Electrocution accidents of similar nature had occurred on board local vessels before and Marine Department Notices (No. 18 of 2010, No. 108 of 2006 and No. 119 of 2002) had been issued to advise operators of the important lessons to be learnt from the accidents. Owners and masters of vessels are hereby reminded again to exercise due care when handling electrical appliances on board and observe the safe practices as stated in the “Local Fishing Vessel Electricity Safety” handbook issued by the Hong Kong Marine Department.

The handbook can be downloaded from:

http://www.mardep.gov.hk/hk/pub_services/ocean/pdf/lvs_handbook2.pdf

R. F. TUPPER
Director of Marine

Marine Department
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