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Safety Bulletin 3 /2025

Three falls from ladders



Incident 1: A person fell from this ladder, when entering the cargo hold from a manhole. The ladder lacked rubber stoppers at the ends.

Dear all,

G2 Ocean is committed to providing a safe and healthy work environment for all personnel involved in our operations. The purpose of our Safety Bulletins is to raise awareness of health & safety risks associated with cargo operations.

G2 Ocean works with several hundred stevedore companies worldwide. We believe that by seeking and sharing insights across company and country boundaries, we can prevent future incidents together. Descriptions of incidents will always be fully anonymised.

This edition is about use of portable ladders. If you have any feedback, please email us at:

safety@g2ocean.com

Best regards G2 Ocean Team

*Link to study: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22860503/>

How dangerous is a fall?

A study* published in the US government's "National Library of Medicine", says there is a 50% mortality rate at falls from 10.5 m, if the casualty suffers head and/or chest injuries.

But because falls from lower heights are more common, most fatal falls happen from much lower heights than 10.5 meters.

A while back a stevedore working on one of our vessels fell "just" 3 meters, from the hatch cover to the main deck, but suffered a broken jaw and eye socket, and several other injuries.

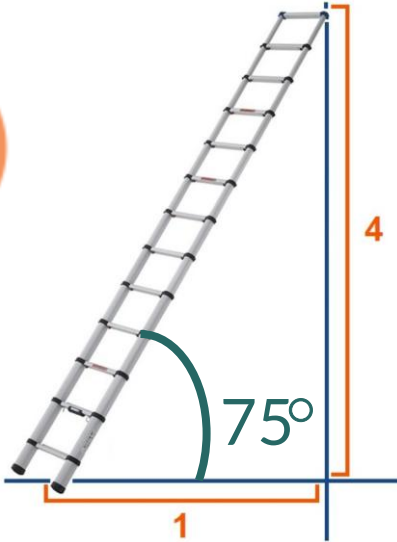
A few weeks ago, we had three similar incidents on our vessels within five days, where stevedores fell from portable ladders.



Incident 2: The lowest step of the ladder broke, and a person fell backwards. The ladder was used inside the cargo hold.

PREVENT SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS

Keep an eye out for slip, trip and fall hazards.



Rule of thumb: For every 4 feet of height, position the base of the ladder 1 foot away from the wall. The angle should be about 75°.



Incident 3: This ladder was used to access the top of plywood cargo on deck. Nobody was holding it. The ladder slid and the person using it fell from a height of about 2 meters.



Integration is one of G2 Ocean's safety behaviours. We expect this behaviour from our own employees, and everyone we work with. It means to integrate what you know into your daily actions. Most crew and stevedores know how to use ladders safely but turning this into a habit is the hard part.

Consequences:



- Based on what we know at this stage, all incidents resulted in minor injuries. All casualties are expected to fully recover.
- Falls can cause severe injuries even from relatively low heights, including the heights where portable ladders are typically used.

Lesson learned:



- Check the condition of portable ladders before use. Repair or get rid of broken ladders
- Someone should hold the portable ladder while it is used.
- The ladder angle should be about 75 ° (ref above).
- Maintain 3 points of contact when climbing ladders (2 feet and 1 hand, or vice versa). Do not carry anything in your hands.
- Prevent slips, trips and falls. That it is a Life-Saving Rule.