

Mechanics Working in “the Yard” during Marine Terminal Operations

Employers must ensure the safety of workers. Mechanics working in “the yard” on containers, reefers, and chassis in marine cargo terminals are exposed to various work-related injuries or death. To prevent injury to workers while working in the yard, employers should provide tool box safety talks each day to ensure that workers are aware of all hazards in the yard.

Safe work practices should include:

- **Mechanics** working away from the shop area should maintain constant radio communication with their immediate supervisor to advise the supervisor of their location. Supervisors should regularly communicate with workers performing duties away from the shop area and ensure that workers are aware of all hazards in the yard.
- **Employers** should properly train workers in all aspects of the work.
- **Mechanics** should create a safety zone/barrier around the container, reefer, or chassis by using a mechanic’s truck and cones and/or signs to alert vehicle operators that a mechanic is working in the area. The safety zone should also prevent movement or bumping of the container, reefer, or chassis, which could injure the mechanic.
- **Vehicle operators** should not hook up to equipment until they are absolutely sure that mechanics are no longer in the safety zone and/or working on equipment.

For more information:



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- **Mechanics** pre-tripping reefer units should prevent drivers from aligning tractors with the reefer until the mechanics complete all equipment checks and stow the reefer cord (as appropriate). This process involves having the vehicle operators park perpendicular to the chassis until the mechanics indicate that the reefer is ready and it is safe to start the hook up.
- **Mechanics** working in the terminal area must wear the necessary clothing, including high-visibility clothing (i.e., a reflective vest) (see §1917.95(a)).
- **Mechanics** performing arc welding must wear filter lenses to protect themselves from the arc (see §1917.152(e)(8)(ii)).



High-visibility vest.

Remember

- Create a safety zone around the container, reefer, or chassis while working on it;
- Never step between mobile equipment lined up to a chassis and the chassis itself;
- Make certain that vehicle wheels are chocked to prevent movement;
- Alert coworkers of approaching equipment; and
- Immediately report to a supervisor any mobile equipment operators who deviate from established terminal safety rules.

For more information:



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