

Mechanics Working in “the Yard” on Powered Equipment during Marine Terminal Operations

Mechanics often must go into “the yard” to work on equipment (top handlers, semi-tractors, straddle carriers, transtainers, forklifts and other wheeled equipment) because the equipment is too large to bring back into the shop area for repair. It is the employer’s responsibility to ensure the safety of workers. To prevent injury to workers while they are working away from the shop, employers should provide tool box safety talks each day to ensure that mechanics and other workers are aware of all hazards in the yard.

Safe work practices include:

- **Mechanics** working away from the shop area should maintain constant radio communication with their immediate supervisor to advise the supervisor of their location.
- **Employers** should stop or divert traffic around the equipment mechanics are working on to protect the immediate work area.
- **Employers** should properly train workers in all aspects of their work.
- **When mechanics** operate powered industrial trucks (PITs) (§1917.43(a); §1910.178(a)) to perform maintenance and repair, employers must ensure that

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mechanics either receive operator safety training as required in §1910.178(l), or are evaluated and can demonstrate that they are competent to operate the PIT safely (§1910.178(a)(5)).

- **Lock-out/Tag-out procedures** must be established by the employer. The power supply to machines must be turned off, locked out, and tagged out during equipment servicing and maintenance as required in §1917.151(b)(7). These procedures prevent pinch-points and crushing hazards that can result from the release of uncontrolled energy from the equipment. Preventing an operator from having access to the equipment (for example, by having the operator exit the cab of the equipment) is an additional measure that will help ensure the effectiveness of the lock-out and tag-out procedures.
- **Mechanics** working in the terminal area must wear the necessary protective clothing, including high visibility clothing (i.e., a reflective vest) as required in §1917.95(a).

Remember

- **Stay alert and keep watch for traffic in your area;**
- **Alert coworkers of approaching equipment; and**
- **Stay in communication with your supervisor.**

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