



## ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2017-05 (05 May 2017)

### Lashing Safety



In analysis of the data collected by USMX reflecting the industry's OSH experience for CY 2016, injuries to lashers accounted for 23 percent of all reported accidents at ILA~USMX Master Contract ports. That's a big number, and comprises a total of 165 reportable injuries.

It's well known that lashers have one of the most difficult jobs on the waterfront. They also face some on-the-job safety hazards that other crafts working on the waterfront do not face. Some of those lasher-unique hazards can be downright dangerous, but can be effectively guarded against by following some simple rules:

- Always work with a partner (never try to connect/disconnect lashing rods alone)
- Never pre-hang lashing rods (they have a way of coming loose when you least expect it)
- Never work in a workspace that's cluttered with lashing gear, ice or snow
- Make certain you're protected against potential falls of 8 feet or more
- Never work under a live spreader (stay at least three container widths away)

Historically, in designing container vessels naval architects have not devoted a lot of attention to the safety of lashers. Thus, lashers have been obliged to conduct their work in extremely tight spaces, in spaces that leave them exposed to significant falls; using gear that's heavy and cumbersome. In combination, these shortcomings can be extremely dangerous.

The International Maritime Organization (an agency of the United Nations) has recognized this lack of attention, and has taken action by issuing **mandatory** guidance in designing containerships that are more "lasher friendly." The guidance is not retroactive, so existing (pre-2015) containerships are not required to be redesigned. Newer vessels, however, must conform with the mandatory design requirements set out within the IMO's Safe Cargo Securing-related guidance. Here's a link to that guidance: [MSC.1-Circ.1352-Rev.1.pdf](#)

Got an OSH-related question? Write to the JSC at: [blueoceana@optonline.net](mailto:blueoceana@optonline.net)

### Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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