



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2014-07 (01 November 2014)

Eccentric (Unbalanced) Loads



Despite all of the guidance and varying levels of instruction ocean carriers provide shippers in relation to the **Do's** and **Don'ts** associated with the packing (stuffing) of containers, some of those shippers just don't get it..... In the extreme case (an example of which is shown above), the center of gravity is so greatly disturbed that the load shifts to one end and sets off a chain of events that can result in some very serious consequences. We all need to be aware of those potentials in our every day work.

While lifting appliance load sensing devices and mechanical means of correcting unbalanced lifts can usually compensate and turn a bad lift into a good one, good loading practices (including effective blocking and bracing of the cargo) provide the best way to prevent these types of accidents.

It's a global problem, of course, and in attempting to provide a Worldwide solution the United Nations agencies **IMO**, **ILO** and **UNECE** have devised a **Code of Practice** aimed at providing shippers with a clear path towards the safe and effective packing of intermodal containers. Here's a link to that Code: [Click here for: CTU Packing Code](#)

The ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee is currently working with ICHCA, in order to facilitate a series of North American-based seminars aimed at providing the appropriate guidance to all parties seeking compliance with the new CTU Packing Code.

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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