

98-19: Handling Of Class 1 Explosive Materials, Proposed Rules

INFORMATION

On October 29 the Coast Guard Published Proposed Rules on the handling of Class 1 (Explosive) Materials or other Dangerous Cargoes within or contiguous to Waterfront Facilities.

The Proposed Rules adopt NFPA Standards for Fire Extinguishers, Sprinklers, Standpipe and Hose Systems, Electrical Systems, Cutting and Welding Processes, and Construction and Fire Protection of Marine Terminals. These adopted "industry standards" are then applied to terminals handling dangerous cargo in break bulk or in "transport units" by these proposed regulations.

The rules for handling Dangerous Cargo in transport units has provisions for; terminal yards to conform to Chapter 5 of NFPA 307 (paving, access, fire lanes, markings, spill recovery, security, warning signs.) They limit vertical storage to no more than 4 high.

The Rules for handling Break Bulk Dangerous Cargo outlines rules/standards for fire lanes, portable fire extinguishers and electrical systems.

General requirements for both types of facilities include: warning signs, lighting requirements, international shore connection availability, restricted personnel access, access for Coast Guard personnel, smoking restrictions, and cleanliness.

In the General Permit Section, The Coast Guard must be notified before the following classes of dangerous cargoes are handled.

Class 1, Division 1.3 (Explosive materials) in excess of 40 net tons.

Class 2, Division 2.1 (flammable gas) or 2.3 (poison gas) in excess of 80 net tons.

Class 7 (Radioactive materials) in a highway controlled quantity.

There are segregation and separation requirements for both break bulk and transport units containing dangerous cargo.

Finally, there are new welding and hot work requirements. The proposed rules adopt NFPA 51B requirements, and the rules specify horizontal separations for hot work and other operations. However there would no longer be a requirement to obtain a Captain of the Port Hot Work Permit (except for Liquefied Hazardous Gas facilities)

Section 126.12 would allow the local Captain of the Port to examine alternative procedures, methods, or equipment standards to be used by operators if a required standard is physically or economically impractical, and an equivalent level of safety can otherwise be provided.

ACTION

Employers should take note of these Proposed Rules. Any comments on these rules should be submitted by December 28 1998. The rules can be obtained on the Web at

www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/index.html

Select 1998, and Proposed Rules

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The NFPA Standards are available from NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, PO Box 9101, Quincy MA 02269-9101