

98-02: OSHA Longshoring and Marine Terminals Regulations 29 CFR 1917-1918

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INFORMATION

The final rules for Longshoring and Marine Terminals were published in the Federal Register on July 25, 1997. **These rules become effective on January 23, 1998.** Marine Terminals and Longshoring Regulations, in effect since 1983, have been updated to better reflect the container and RO/RO operations that are prevalent today. These regulations are supplemented by General Industry Standards in 29 CFR 1910 to address a number of hazards that are not unique to Longshoring.

Of particular note is the new definition for container top FALL HAZARD in section 1918.2. According to the Final Rule, a fall hazard exists when employees are working within 3 feet of the unprotected edge of a work surface that is 8 or more feet above the adjoining surface and 12 or more inches or more horizontally from the adjacent surface, or when weather conditions are such as to impair the vision or footing of employees working on top of containers. The definition makes it clear that it is the unprotected edge that poses the fall hazard and not necessarily the entire work surface.

OSHA has stressed during the public meetings on the Final Rules that they will be **concentrating their enforcement efforts on FALL PROTECTION where a fall hazard exists.** Section 1918.85 (k) **Fall Protection Systems** outlines the rules for container top fall protection engineering and operational requirements. Working along unguarded edges requires that: "The employer shall provide and ensure that the employees use fall protection meeting the requirements of paragraph (k) of this section where a fall hazard exists."

ACTION

Members are requested to review their operations and enforcement actions in light of the new regulations.

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