



## Pacific Maritime Association

Accident Prevention Department  
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San Francisco, California 94105

# SAFETY BULLETIN 02-2013

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(Safety Bulletin for Employers)

## HANDLING PROCEDURES FOR ALL REFRIGERATED UNITS

PMA recommends the following guidelines for mechanics working on refrigerated units:

1. First, visually inspect the refrigerated controller to confirm the unit is not set in the "Emergency Run" mode.
2. If the unit has a sight glass, check for any indication of abnormal appearance.
3. When starting the unit, no personnel should be in front of the unit, or be inside the refrigerated container.
4. During start up, all personnel should be no closer than 2 container units (approx. 15 feet) from refrigeration machinery.
5. Before plugging in unit, ensure the refrigeration unit circuit breaker and power switch are in the "on" or "run" (closed) position.
6. Plug the refrigerated unit into a power source that is not directly in front of the refrigerated unit that has the power source breaker turned off.
7. Turn on the breaker at the power source and wait for the refrigerated unit to go through its start-up procedure; until the compressor has started and runs for 3-5 minutes.
8. If the compressor exhibits sounds of improper operation, such as knocking, clanging, buzzing, or other odd sounds during start up, or if the compressor becomes unusually hot, turn off the breaker at the power source, and immediately contact your lead-man or supervisor.
9. If a unit fails to start, disconnect it from power source and immediately contact your lead-man or supervisor.
10. If any mechanic has any doubt or concern about safely working on any refrigerated unit, they should immediately consult with their lead-man or supervisor.