

CONTAINER

Cargo operation and cargo securing



Handling containers is dangerous: Weights are moved at a high velocity. They hover, they swing back and forth, they may bump into other objects. Lashing material is loosened and fastened. Reefer containers are connected and disconnected. Often, several parties work simultaneously in different areas and may endanger each other.



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Facts and critical situations

Whether moved in a controlled or an uncontrolled manner, containers and hatch covers can hit or crush crew members, contribute to a person falling or become detached from the cargo gear and fall. If they collide, weights may move uncontrollably elsewhere. This may cause lashing material to break or fall down from higher stowage areas.

Lashing material, small stones or other parts can come loose during transport. Anyone not wearing a protective helmet risks dangerous head injuries.

Even when crews and dockworkers watch out for each other, misunderstandings can occur and create hazards for each other.

Even when crews and dockworkers pay attention to each other, misunderstandings and mutual hazards can occur. Areas with poor visibility or lighting increase the risk of hazards, including tripping, falling into openings (e.g. from lashing bridges) or hatches, and slipping down ladders. Cargo handling involves various direct and indirect hazards. These are often predictable.

Shipping company/Onboard ship management

Identify and assess the hazards posed by cargo handling, lashing work and connecting and disconnecting reefer containers.

Raise awareness among crew members, especially younger and inexperienced seafarers.

Cargo handling is a core task. For crew members, the associated activities often become routine. They become accustomed to the danger of the situations. Support crew members in performing even routine tasks attentively and recognizing hazards. Intervene if safety risks are underestimated.



Find out about the hazards and which procedures and safeguards your shipping company has specified.



Correct handling:

- Take care of your own as well as the safety of others and avoid endangering one another
- Wear head PPE (protective helmet) and protective footwear
- Wear reflective clothing as PPE providing high visibility on deck and holds
- Pay attention to protected positions for monitoring loading and unloading processes
- Make sure there is enough lighting on deck, at hatches and in cargo holds in the dark
- Pay particular attention with containers containing dangerous goods
- Take care of younger and inexperienced seafarers and make them aware of hazards and correct behaviour
- Secure and stow inactive cables of reefer containers



Never:

- Stand under suspended loads
- Stand in the area of swinging loads
- Linger where lashing work is performed
- Step into unlit areas with a risk of falling
- Stand on a container without protection if there is a risk of falling
- Stand at an unsecured hatch without safeguards