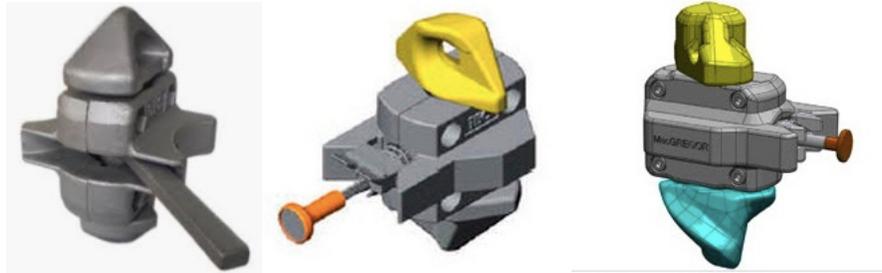




ILA-UMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2018-12 (14 December 2018)

Intermodal Twist Locks



Working safety with and around container securing twistlocks [the proper technical name: “**Interbox Connectors**”] is a subject worth considering, given that a good number of accidents experienced worldwide in this age of containerization include twistlocks within their causal aspect(s).

Some facts about intermodal twistlocks:

- ✚ They come in an assortment of profiles, sizes, shapes and applications. Above (**from left to right**), are examples of a “**Manual**” twistlock; a “**Semi-automatic**” twistlock (SATL) and a “**Fully-automatic**” twistlock (FATL). Each model will behave a little differently, and both the SATL and the FATL offer operational and safety advantages (and some disadvantages) when in practical use.
- ✚ Their dimensions and strength characteristics are standardized within Annex A of the ISO standard 3874 [https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/- iso:std:iso:3874:ed-6:v1:en](https://www.iso.org/obp/ui/-iso:std:iso:3874:ed-6:v1:en)
- ✚ They are classified as “**Cargo Securing Gear**”, and as such their existence and maintenance must be set out within each IMO vessel’s Cargo Securing Manual (CSM). [IMO Revised Guidelines for the Preparation of CSM](#)
- ✚ Owing, in part, to poor cargo securing gear maintenance practices on some (not all) vessels, and poor practices often (not always) associated with the identification and isolation of bad order twistlocks during the container loading/discharge processes, some twistlocks that are in use simply shouldn’t be.
- ✚ Those substandard twistlocks can (and do) fail to operate correctly and have a way of sometimes falling from the bottom apertures of containers being handled by container gantry cranes.
- ✚ Workers should avoid being below containers that are being loaded or discharged, whether aboard ship or ashore. When aboard ship, in particular, workers should stay well clear of the bay being worked <http://www.blueoceana.com/?p=2637>

Got an OSH-related question? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

ILA-USMX OSH Circulars are devised to reflect the best possible information and guidance, and are products of diligent research and the most up to date subject matter knowledge. Consequently, while the information contained herein is believed to be accurate, owing to a host of factors ILA-USMX can convey no direct or implied warranty relative to the reliance of parties upon content.