



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2019-08 (29 August 2019)

Some Praise (and Appreciation)



The ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee has taken notice that a growing number of marine terminal employers have opted to have air conditioning installed in yard tractors and other pieces of vehicular equipment regularly operated within our jurisdiction. We're grateful and appreciative, particularly in these Summer months of ever-increasing heat.

We believe that a worker's relative comfort in performing his/her tasks has a direct relationship to not only the operation's safety performance, but also to the operation's overall efficiency and productivity. Consequently, we applaud the sound reasoning of marine terminal operators who have also made that connection and we earnestly hope that this trend continues. We know that our industry will benefit from it.

We recognize, however, that any such initiative embarked upon by marine terminal employers is not a one way street.

As progressive marine terminal employers make the good faith effort to provide the desired level of comfort associated with safer and more efficient operations, there must also be a corresponding level of good faith extended by workers in terms of the reasonable care and utilization of this equipment. To that end:

- 1).** Workers should operate the cargo moving equipment put in their care with great respect for the machine, for themselves and for fellow workers;
- 2).** Workers should keep in mind that air conditioning equipment will sometimes fail, and that the simple lack of air conditioning on a given day does not mean that the equipment must be sidelined. The expectation is that workers and Local Union leadership will honor and abide with that understanding;
- 3).** Employers must appreciate that air conditioning systems have been installed for a purpose, and that such purpose is effectively abandoned if those systems are allowed to remain inoperative. They're an investment, made with an anticipated return.

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

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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