



ILA-UMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2025-01 (05 January 2025)

Reprising Slips, Trips & Falls

Insight

Grey areas

Some of our Life-Saving Rules are easy to understand and enforce.

If you observe people smoking in the cargo hold, people standing below suspended loads or not wearing basic PPE, it is obvious that the rules are not followed.

But how can we say with certainty that someone is NOT preventing slips, trips and falls?

One example is standing on the hatch coaming, it is clear breach. In other situations, it can be more of a grey area.

Good examples of living by this rule include:

- Maintain 3 points of contact when climbing ladders (2 feet and 1 hand, or vice versa).
- Use safety harness when needed.
- Use the handrails.
- Close manholes and put deck gratings back in place, after work is finished.



This is not a grey area, this is too close to the edge.

Historically, over the course of many years, marine cargo handling industry workers are injured more by slips, trips and falls than any other grouping of accident categories. As the G2 Ocean publication linked to below points out, some of the accidents occurring within that category can have fatal results.

Thus, it's worth your time in reviewing G2 Ocean's latest safety bulletin and for that purpose the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC) invites your attention through the following link:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:US:5c244a07-f2aa-4c7f-900f-of1d40ed3d1a>

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

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