



ILA-USMX Joint Safety Committee

OSH Circular 2025-04 (04 April 2025)

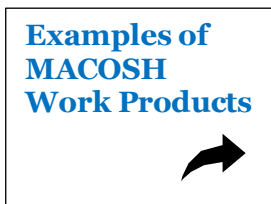
MACOSH

Congress established the Maritime Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety & Health (MACOSH) in the year 2020 within Section 3510 of the National Defense Authorization Act. Authority for the administration of MACOSH rests with the Secretary of Labor.

The Secretary of Labor has delegated most of her MACOSH-related administrative duties to the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA). Subsequently, OSHA revised 29 CFR Part 1912 to include specific regulations which acknowledge the establishment, composition and operation of MACOSH. The **FEDERAL REGISTER** notice setting out this official action can be reviewed via the following active link: [Federal Register notice of 18 November 2020](#)

OSHA has published a dedicated webpage which provides substantial detail about MACOSH and includes links which enable the public to review relevant documents considered and produced by MACOSH. An active link to that webpage is provided here: [Link to OSHA's MACOSH Webpage](#)

Mr. Bob Fiore, Safety Director of the International Longshoremen’s Association, has been a three-term member of MACOSH and is presently nominated for a fourth term. United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) has nominated two corporate safety directors representing USMX-member shipping associations to MACOSH. Official appointments to MACOSH should be announced imminently by the Secretary of Labor.



OSHA QUICK CARD
Gangway Safety in Marine Cargo Handling

Workers involved in marine cargo handling operations are exposed to the hazards of falls and slips and trips. Workers have been injured or killed by falling into the water or onto the ocean surface due to the improper design and fitting of gangways. When a gangway is used, it must meet the following requirements:

- A gangway, when possible, must be a minimum of 20 inches wide.
- Each side of the gangway, and landing, must be protected with handrails and toeboards.
- Handrails must be at least 33 inches high.
- Landings must be made of wood, pipe, chain, wire, rope or other material of equal strength.
- Chain, wire, and rope used must be kept taut (slightly sag).
- Possible structures that provide support for the gangway must be secured to prevent them from coming loose.
- A net must be provided to prevent workers from falling into the water or to a lower level.
- If there is more than a one-foot gap between the gangway and the edge of a hatch, a bridge with a firm surface must be installed that has handrails and toeboards on both sides.
- Keep gangways clear. Do not lay anything on or across a gangway, including supporting beams, wires, or hoses.
- If a gangway bridge cannot be moved from the gangway, it must be properly marked to alert employees of the danger (lighting need).

Remember:
 Report any problems found with a gangway to a supervisor immediately. For further information, see 29 CFR 1918.21 and 1918.22.

For more complete information:
OSHA
 Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 U.S. Department of Labor
www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA

OSHA QUICK CARD
Lifesaving Facilities in Marine Cargo Handling

Workers involved in marine cargo handling operations are exposed to many hazards. Workers should be aware of the various lifesaving equipment, requirements, and uses. If the vessel, they must at least recognize the use and purpose. The chances of survival:

- **Shelter Bunkers/Decks**, or that equipment, must be kept near each vessel being worked and have:
 - Permanent ladders, capable of lifting 1,000 lbs., for climbing to landing gear.
 - A blanket or other suitable covering.
 - At least four sets of effective contact materials, and
 - Lifting brackets and flat plates for making vertical lifts from container berths.
- **Shelters** must be kept in a safe area, completely enclosed and be protected from the elements. Shelters in permanent locations must be mounted to prevent damage.
- If the shelter location is hidden from view, a sign must be placed "Lifesaving Equipment" in similar language, to indicate its location.

Life Rafts must be easily accessible at sea-level with a mark, measure 30 inches in diameter, and have at least 90 feet of line attached.

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) must be U.S. Coast Guard-approved and worn by workers who are on the water during which they might fall into the water and drown (e.g., on a bridge or gangway, the deck, or working in isolation) unless the employer has established restrictions, or if workers are using safety harnesses and falllines.

A **portable or permanent ladder**, giving access to the water, must be located within 200 feet of work areas where there are drowning hazards.

Remember:
 Report any problems found with lifesaving facilities to a supervisor immediately. For further information, see 29 CFR 1917.36, 1918.06, 1918.07, and 1918.08.

For more complete information:
OSHA
 Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 U.S. Department of Labor
www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA

OSHA QUICK CARD
First Aid in Marine Cargo Handling

Workers involved in marine cargo handling operations are exposed to many hazards. It is important to be aware of first-aid requirements when working at marine cargo handling facilities. To reduce the effects of these hazards:

- Report all injuries, regardless of their severity, to a supervisor immediately.
- First-aid kits must be available at each marine terminal, at or near each vessel being worked, and
- Be weatherproof.
- Be stocked with items necessary for treating injuries, such as gauze, adhesive tape, bandages, wound cleaning agent, resuscitation equipment, like gloves, and spill kit with elastic wraps.
- Contents of each kit must be individually sealed packages.
- Have contents determined by a person certified in first aid and familiar with the hazards, and
- Be checked at regular intervals so that used items can be replaced immediately.
- At least one person with a valid first-aid certificate must be at the terminal and available to provide first aid during cargo handling operations.
- A telephone or equivalent means of communication must be readily available in case of an emergency.

Remember:
 Report any problems found with a first-aid kit to a supervisor immediately.
 Workers should know the location of first-aid kits.

For further information, see 29 CFR 1917.26 and 1918.07.

For more complete information:
OSHA
 Occupational Safety and Health Administration
 U.S. Department of Labor
www.osha.gov (800) 321-OSHA

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

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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