



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2016-04 (15 April 2016)

Windy Out There?



Recently, a couple of U.S. North Atlantic ports experienced some strong wind gusts and sustained high wind speeds. While no container cranes were displaced, several marine terminals experienced dozens of tiered containers blown from their stacks.

Those events prompted lots of questions in the direction of the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee. The answers to those questions were generally found within the applicable OSHA regulations dealing with container handling gantry cranes. **Here's a link:**

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title29-vol7/pdf/CFR-2015-title29-vol7-sec1917-45.pdf>

The wind-relevant regulations are found at 1917.45 (g) (3) (4) & (5) [**See page 233**]

Perhaps the most pivotal subparagraph within that section appears here:

(iii) *Instructions.* The employer shall post operating instructions for high wind conditions in the operator's cab of each crane. Operators shall be directed to comply with these instructions. The instructions shall include procedures for responding to high wind alerts and for any coordination necessary with other cranes.

The stability of stacked containers (against windy conditions) is addressed nowhere within the OSHA regulations. Just the same, that lack of stability is fairly characterized as “**a recognized hazard**” within our industry. That being the case, OSHA is free to cite the OSH law's [General Duty Clause](#) when requiring employers to take affirmative action.

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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