



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2023-01 (04 January 2023)

Seat Belts Save Lives!



Analyzing the worldwide marine cargo handling industry accident data available to the ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC) covering the last twelve years, we see that there were **ten (10) straddle carrier tip-overs** during that timeframe.

In seven (7) of the tip-overs, the operators were not wearing a seat belt. Each was ejected (fully or partially) from their cab and **each were fatally injured**.

In three (3) of the tip-overs, the operators were wearing their seat belts. **Each survived the tip-over**.

Similar accident data underscores the need for operators of **all** vehicles (including all vehicular cargo handling equipment) conducting work within marine terminals to secure themselves within the protections afforded by all fitted seat belt/occupant restraint systems.

The JSC understands and appreciates that not all seat belt/occupant restraint systems provide great levels of comfort and convenience. We're in discussions with our constituent marine terminal operators that should allow for a better experience going forward.

For the time present, however, we urge all vehicle operators to make complete use of the seat belt/occupant restraint systems that are currently fitted to the equipment you operate.

In our eyes, a little short term discomfort/inconvenience is far more preferable than the fatal alternative.

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

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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