



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2026-09 (11 September 2026)

The Condition of Ship's Lifting Gear



It's important that a careful assessment of all ship's lifting appliances [cranes, booms, derricks] and gear [wire rope, cargo hooks and other vessel-supplied equipment added to the lift(s)] is undertaken before cargo operations actually begin in order to assure (to the extent possible) that the safety of workers is assured.

OSHA has a regulation which requires that a neutral third party has attested to the safe condition of a vessel's cargo handling gear and found it compliant with international standards:

29 CFR 1918.11 (a)

The employer shall not use the vessel's cargo handling gear until it has been ascertained that the vessel has a current and valid cargo gear register and certificates that in form and content are in accordance with the recommendations of the International Labor Office, as set forth in appendix I of this part, and as provided by International Labor Organization Convention No. 152, and that shows that the cargo gear has been tested, examined and heat treated by or under the supervision of persons or organizations defined as competent to make register entries and issue certificates pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section.

The ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee urges you to not be satisfied with a simple review of the vessel's cargo gear register and loose gear certificates. Those records can only reflect the condition of the cargo handling gear on the day it was examined, inspected or tested by that neutral third party. Take your time in giving all components of cargo handling gear a good eyeballing before it's put into use in any loading or discharge operation.

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

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