

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS FOR UNLOADING SEA FREIGHT CONTAINERS

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be worn. PPE refers to protective clothing, helmets, goggles, or other garment or equipment designed to protect the wearer's body from injury by blunt impacts, electrical hazards, heat, chemicals, and infection, for job-related occupational safety and health purposes.
- Persons under the influence of alcohol or drugs must not be allowed to unload or work around a container.
- Containers must be placed at ground or level with a loading/unloading dock.
- When opening container doors beware that cargo inside the container may have shifted during transit and could fall out and injure the person/s opening the container doors.
- If a container is being unloaded whilst on the back of a truck, extra care is required when opening the doors to avoid cargo that could possibly fall from the container onto the worker/s who are opening the doors. Never attempt to catch cargo falling from a container.
- If forklifts are used to unload the cargo the driver needs to be vigilant about persons working in or around the container and if necessary sound the horn of the forklift to make them aware of its presence.
- Persons unloading containers in hot temperatures must use a fan (depending on temperature) and drink fluids — it can get unbelievably hot inside containers, stay cool and stay hydrated.
- Safety is paramount at all times while containers are being unloaded.
- On completion of the unloading of the container ensure that it is cleaned of any packaging debris and that the doors are securely closed.

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