



## ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH Circular 2017-01 (03 January 2017)

**ICE ON DECK!**

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**ICE ALOFT!**



With Winter upon us, at the more Northern ports it's realistic to foresee ice-occasioned slippery walking and working surfaces (aboard ship and ashore) as well as ice formations aloft that may have a propensity to thaw and fall (also aboard ship and ashore) upon unsuspecting workers and managers.

In relation to those hazards, common law holds that vessels have a (turnover) duty to inspect for and correct hazardous conditions before the vessel is handed over to the contract stevedore. It doesn't require a lot of imagination to conclude that iced-up walking and working surfaces encountered aboard ship can be a hazardous condition. Consequently, ocean carriers have a responsibility to ensure that those hazards are corrected before allowing longshore personnel to conduct work. In OSHA's eyes, marine terminal & stevedore employers share those responsibilities.

### **OSHA's regulations aboard vessels:**

#### **1918.91(b)**

Slippery surfaces. The employer shall eliminate conditions causing slippery walking and working surfaces in immediate areas used by employees.

#### **1918.91(g)**

Ice aloft. Employees shall be protected from ice that may fall from aloft.

### **OSHA's regulation on shore:**

#### **1917.12**

The employer shall eliminate, to the extent possible, conditions causing slippery working and walking surfaces in immediate work areas used by employees.

**Got a Winter Weather-related question? Write to the JSC at: [blueoceana@optonline.net](mailto:blueoceana@optonline.net)**

## **Working Together For The Benefit Of All**

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