

South African Maritime Safety Authority



Marine Notice No 22 of 2009

Discharging Two Empty 20ft Containers Using a Four Legged Chain Sling

TO ALL PRINCIPLE OFFICERS, STEVEDORING COMPANIES, LABOUR BROKERS, SHIPS MASTERS AND AGENTS AND TERMINAL OPERATORS

Summary

This notice advises the South African stevedoring industry, Master's of ships working cargo in South African ports, ships' agents and Terminal Operators of SAMSA's requirements regarding the discharging of two empty 20ft containers using a four legged chain sling.

It has come to the attention of the Authority that some stevedore companies are using a four legged chain sling to discharge two 20ft empty containers. This method of handling containers is deemed by the Authority to be dangerous and is not in line with international best practice.



Containers are to be discharged / handled according to International Standard ISO 3874 Series 1 Freight Containers – Handling & Securing, which is obtainable from the South African Bureau of Standards.

Acceptable methods of handling two containers simultaneously are as follows:

1 Vertical tandem lifting, whereby containers are interlocked using certified, clearly marked, identifiable liftlocks and not twistlocks. This implies that the vessel has the equipment (liftlocks) available for use and that stevedores and terminal operators are familiar and trained in the use of this equipment and method of handling containers.



2 Use of a tested and certified container frame suitable for lifting two 20ft containers side by side.

15 July 2009

SM6/5/2/1

Issued by and obtainable from:
The South African Maritime Safety Authority
161 Lynnwood Road
Brooklyn, Pretoria

PO Box 13186
Hatfield 0028

Tel: +27 12 366 2600

Fax: +27 12 366 2601

E-mail: marinenotices@samsa.org.za

Web Site : www.samsa.org.za