FGIS Training Guide

# stowage safety

**General Safety**

* Comply with all pertinent Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements
* Obey ALL posted warning signs
* Wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when conditions warrant
* Ear/Hearing Protection
* Eye Protection
* Fall Protection
* Ensure that adequate first aid and rescue equipment is available
* Official personnel will not enter a stowage area unless they are being monitored by a person who is in a position to render prompt aid if necessary

**Emergency Procedures**

* Official Personnel will:
  + Immediately notify a carrier representative, if someone falls from ladder or collapses in a tank. Emergency services must be contacted immediately.
  + Not enter the hold or tank, if the victim is unconscious and it cannot be determined if the accident was caused by low oxygen content or toxic atmosphere. Wait for trained personnel to rescue the victim.
  + Enter the hold or tank to provide emergency first aid, if it is determined that the accident was not caused by low oxygen content or toxic atmosphere. Wait for trained emergency personnel to move the victim.
  + If the victim is unconscious, obtain a label or a material safety data sheet from the fumigant used. IF these cannot be obtained, obtain a sample of the victim's vomit, if available, and deliver it to the emergency room.
  + Familiarize themselves with the locations and phone numbers of local rescue service organizations.

**PPE and Clothing**

* Official Personnel will wear or carry with them, when and where required:
  + Hard Hat
  + Shoes or boots that have nonslip soles and definite heels for good footing on ladders is recommended
  + Safety Glasses
  + Ear Plugs
  + Life Vest
  + Whistle
  + High visibility vest with reflective strips
  + Fall Protection/Safety Harness
  + Recommended to wear reasonably close fitting clothes to reduce snagging.
  + Recommended to wear close-fitting and pliable nylon-mesh gloves.

**Chemical Treatment**

* Stowage areas are often treated with chemicals, usually for the purpose of controlling insect infestation
* Contact with toxic fumes or sprays from these chemicals can cause serious injury or death
* If you have the follow symptoms, immediately leave the area and seek medical attention
* Shortness of breath
* Light headedness
* Drowsiness or headache
* Wear chemical respirator or self-contained breathing apparatus if required
* Do not examine a stowage area if it has been fumigated until after the time period specified by the manufacturer for effective use of that type of fumigant and the stowage area has been adequately aerated
* For ship holds and barges - gas free certificate must be issued
* For railcars, trucks, and containers the licensed applicator should certify the stowage area is safe to enter
* Deodorized stowage area procedure:
  + Obtain a label from chemical to determine type of chemical
  + Record name of chemical and amount on the stowage examination worksheet
  + Require a gas-free certificate before entering the stowage in question if there is any indication of flammable vapors or low oxygen content in holds or tanks

**Fall Protection**

* If fall protection is available, FGIS employees MUST use it while working on top of rolling stock
* If fall protection is NOT available, FGIS employees may provide service on top of rolling stock without fall protection
* FGIS will provide a harness for employees' use while working under fall protection
* Employees must know:
* When fall protection is necessary
* How to properly put on, take off, adjust, and wear the fall protection
* The limitations of fall protection
* Proper care and maintenance of fall protection
* A Fall Protection Assessment will be conducted by the designated FGIS person, at any worksite where personnel are requested to perform service on top of rolling stock
* When using fall protection at an applicant's facility, complete any training offered or required by the facility

**Trucks and Containers**

* Notify Yardmaster before entering or leaving
* Wear bright reflective clothing
* Be alert to hazards:
  + Moving trucks
  + Cables Cranes
  + Suspended Containers
  + Do not walk under suspended containers
  + Do not walk through a break in a string of trucks separated by only a few feet
* Be alert to hazards in warehouses:
  + Forklifts
  + Toe-Motors
  + Sacks falling from poorly stacked pallets
* A docked truck must be chucked
* Be alert to chemical odors

**Box Cars and Hopper Cars**

* Notifications before entering a rail yard:
  + Immediate Supervisor
  + Yardmaster
  + Switch Crew Foreman
  + Any other essential Personnel
* NEVER:
  + Crawl under cars
  + Do not walk through a break in a string of cars separated by only a few feet
  + Walk on the rails (walk parallel to the set of tracks and never between the two rails)
* Avoid climbing through a string of cars and over coupling
* Lock-out track
* Be alert to chemical odors
* Check for placarded railcars
* Be alert to seasonal conditions:
  + Icy walking and/or climbing surfaces in winter
  + High winds, electrical storms, or other inclement weather conditions
  + Rodents, snakes, scorpions, wasps, and hornets in warmer months
* Check for power lines
* Be mindful when opening or closing car hatches or doors
* Wear high-visibility vest with reflective strips
* Notify Yardmaster or Foreman when you leave the work area

**Ships and Barges**

* Notify Captain or Foreman before examination
* Must wear a life vest
* Prior to boarding
* While aboard vessels (midstream or dockside)
* If using life vest at night, must have:
  + Light
  + Whistle
* Midstream stowage not allowed except when docked alongside a floating rig
  + You must not board any launch boat service to board any ships, barges, or floating rigs unless a licensed boat captain and a deckhand are present onboard the launch vessel
  + If not staffed with at least one captain and one deckhand, inform the driver that you are not able to board safely
  + Before boarding a ship, barge, or floating rig, ensure that the deckhand is nearby and ready to provide aid in an emergency
  + Ship personnel should enter the hold before FGIS Personnel
* Travel to and from barges at midstream and other vessels at anchor via U.S. Coast Guard
  + U.S. Coast Guard-approved launch, tugboat, licensed water taxi
  + Do not jump
  + Must be able to step easily
  + Check for slippery conditions
* Be alert to seasonal conditions:
  + Icy walking and/or climbing surfaces in winter
  + High winds, electrical storms, or other inclement weather conditions
  + Rodents, snakes, scorpions, wasps, and hornets in warmer months
* Check gangway before boarding
* Require a gas free certificate to enter if:
  + Unventilated, enclosed area
  + Has been fumigated
  + Suspected of low oxygen
  + Heavy rust
  + Fresh paint
* Do not remain on barges while they are moving
* Be aware of other vessels which could cause a collision
* Require roll top covers to be locked in place