



THE BRISTOL PORT COMPANY

St Andrew's House, St Andrew's Road, Avonmouth, Bristol BS11 9DQ.
Telephone: 0117 982 0000 Facsimile: 0117 982 0698 Telex: 44240.
Email: enquiries@bristolport.co.uk
www.bristolport.co.uk

Safety Bulletin – No1 of 2019

Safety of Vessel Crew in Operational Areas

Introduction

The Bristol Port Company (TBPC), which owns and operate Royal Portbury and Avonmouth Docks, strives continually to improve safety across the Port estate. Dock operations can result in the creation of hazards to those not directly involved, and these require mitigation to ensure that the risk of harm to personnel is reduced to As Low As Practicable (ALARP). Whilst the safety of seafarers on board vessels is assured by the operating company's ISM Code Safety Management System, seafarers are exposed to port hazards when moving between their ship and the shore through operational areas. TBPC are focussed on mitigating these hazards in order to provide a safe environment for seafarers.

Hazards in Operational Areas

Any vessel loading or unloading cargo in the Port of Bristol will, by definition, berth alongside an operational quay. Quay edges will not be protected, exposing personnel to the hazards of falls from height and into water. Depending upon the nature of cargo being loaded or unloaded, there will be a variety of plant in use, ranging from gantry or grab cranes, to front end loaders, lorries, and fork lift trucks. Moving plant exposes personnel to the hazards of contact with machinery, falling objects, or moving cargo. Exposure to slips, trips and falls can be increased where slippery or free-running cargo is spilled onto quay, whilst mooring lines under tension will have unmarked snapback zones.

Mitigation of hazards

In addition to the well-established mitigation, which includes marked walkways, warning signs, warning signals from moving plant, and supervision of operational activity, seafarers are requested to take the following actions to ensure that they remain safe whilst transiting operational areas:

- Wear PPE in operational areas (min requirement is high viz vest and hard hat). These can be left at the Police gates when leaving the docks.
- Wear enhanced PPE (including lifejackets) when working within 1.0m of the quay edge.
- Follow marked walkways where this is practical.
- Attract attention of Port personnel before crossing operational areas.

Information

This Safety Bulletin will be provided to all vessel before docking in the Port of Bristol, and will form the basis of a Port Information pack on the Port Website.