

INTERMODAL SAFETY BRIEFING

Empowering a Stop Work Environment

Many regulatory agencies, such as the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), require workplaces free from workplace hazards. In 1980, the U. S. Supreme Court defined a worker's right to refuse work if they felt it was unsafe to proceed. Allowing workers the authority to stop work when they feel they cannot proceed safely is, in general, coined as a worker's Stop Work Authority.

All employees and contractors have the right to stop work immediately when they do not feel safe, or understand full compliance, to avoid any potential injury, incident, or compliance violation. Stop Work Authority means they can make this decision without fear of retribution, harassment, or coercion from company management. Stopping work helps to protect their safety and other's safety.

Importance

In an Intermodal setting Stop Work can be utilized for unsafe equipment, tractors, trailers, and/or chassis; not having the proper or adequate tools for the job; unsafe driving conditions; not being provided proper personal protective equipment; not being trained properly to do a particular job safely; or any other condition that may cause potential injury, incident, or compliance violation. These conditions must be corrected before proceeding.

OSHA states that an employee can, at any time, ask the employer to eliminate the danger or file a complaint due to a hazardous working condition. When the employee utilizes Stop Work Authority, the employer must remove people from the unsafe environment, create a plan and correct the reported issue, and clearly inform people of the corrections.

Safety Tips

Action is the key to a successful Stop Work Authority Program or Policy. When Stop Work Authority is invoked by an employee or contractor, an employer needs to take action. The employees are the employer's most valuable asset and to protect that asset, employees should feel safe in their working environment and empowered to speak up with any questions or concerns.

The support and success of the program starts with senior management, who create the culture to promote Stop Work Authority, clearly establishing expectations within a proper policy and/or procedure. Safety personnel can then ensure that all operators and employees are trained and understand their role in the program while supervisors and managers promote its use and support it at the location level.

Everyone must remember that it is the right of an employee to work in conditions free and clear of preventable and controllable workplace hazards.

Stakeholders

This safety briefing is designed to assist :

- **All members of the intermodal community**