

# Gulf States Shipbuilders Consortium

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# Ten Safety Improvements Shipyards Need to Know

**★AEU** THE AMERICAN EQUITY  
UNDERWRITERS, INC

An AmWINS Group Company

# Shipyards Today

- Are shipyards shifting their focus away from safety and health programs?
- Economic uncertainty
- Cutbacks in labor and management personnel
- Short-cuts to “save money”
- Resistance to change

# Shipyards Today

However, in tough economic times it's even more important to maintain a strong commitment toward improving safety and health programs.

A few proven reasons are:

- Fewer injuries and property damages
- Increased productivity at profitable levels
- Morale & company culture
- Regulatory compliance

# Regulatory Compliance

OSHA has even stronger emphasis on safety and health programs in shipyards. The agency is:

- Increasing its budget by \$51 million for 2010
- Adding 130 additional Compliance Safety and Health Officers (Bi-lingual)
- Adding 25 Whistle Blower Investigators
- Devoting more resources to shipyard safety and health compliance inspections
- Issuing larger penalties

Understand the “lowest” line of supervision is considered by OSHA to be “management”

# What Shipyards Need to Know

- Maintain Focus
- Take action to keep frequency and severity down
- Be prepared. Conduct an in-house OSHA audit
- Top Ten - AEU's nationwide shipyard inspection program

# Management Commitment & Leadership

- Challenge the safety and health program for continual improvement
- Take an active role in the program by complying with and enforcing the safety and health policies
- Develop Safety Committees made up of both employees and management

# Supervisory Accident Prevention Training

- Define safety goals for continual improvement
- Identify supervisor safety responsibilities
- Establish supervisor accountability policies
- Train on specific safety compliance policy and procedures

# Confined Space Safety

- Each facility should have trained Shipyard Competent Person to maintain safe working condition in confined spaces
- 29 CFR 1915.13 & 29 CFR 1915.14
  - Duties of SCP & CMC
  - Atmospheric testing
  - Continuous ventilation
  - Employee entry
  - Explosion proof electrical
  - Signage
  - Controlling ignition sources (static electricity and non-spark producing tools)

# Fall Protection

- Pre-plan the job to identify safety work practices
- Guardrails are the preferred method
- Train employees on their responsibilities
- Choose the proper equipment
- Ensure tie-off point is adequate to hold 5,000 lbs
- Guard all deck edges and holes that expose employees to a fall of 5 feet or greater



# Ladder Safety

- Select the proper ladder for the work being performed
- Inspect the ladder for any damages prior to use
- Any damaged ladders should be taken out of service immediately
- Secure ladders from movement
- Caution should be used when working from ladders



# In-House Safety Audit Programs

- Develop strategies for program improvements
- Train supervisors on the auditing process
- Generate a checklist for areas to be audited
- Schedule specific times (daily, weekly, monthly) to perform audits
- Assign responsibility for corrective action on unacceptable items found
- Provide follow-up to ensure corrective actions were completed and adequate

# Pad Eye Failure

- Confirm SWL capacity
- Avoid tack welds
- Solid welds must be used
- Experienced welders
- Inspect equipment & lifting points prior to use
- Defective equipment must not be used
- Properly seat hooks
- Stay out of “line of fire”
- Supervisory involvement



# Safety Management Systems

- Top management commitment
- Safety steering committee
- Establish safety goals & objectives
- Assign safety responsibility to managers & front line supervisors
- Safety is a resource
- Safety accountability
- Training
- Employee involvement
- Verbal & visual support

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