



Next G.M. Meeting in Dublin

We have now selected our hotel in Dublin for the next General Meeting which will be held 12/13 September, with the board meeting on the 11th.

The hotel is Crown Plaza Airport Hotel, Dublin and Willy has booked 55 rooms of which 33 have already been confirmed for members.

If you need a room please contact Willy Freson soonest, as we must let the rooms go on a first come first served basis.

PRESS RELEASE

ITCO PUBLISHES PROTOCOL ON THE PREVENTION OF FALLS FROM ISO TANK CONTAINERS

The International Tank Container Organisation (ITCO) has published a safety protocol aimed at minimising the risks associated with working at height on the top of ISO tank containers. The "*Prevention of Falls From ISO Tank Containers*" Protocol has been developed in cooperation with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in Great Britain and supports an overall HSE programme seeking to reduce working at height risks across a range of industries. HSE is pleased to see the new ITCO protocol and encourages its use throughout the global tank container industry.

Reg Lee, ITCO President, states, "Our new ITCO protocol lays down recommended industry best practices for working on top of ISO tank containers. It asks each participant in the tank container supply chain - from consignors, loading depot operators and rail and shipping terminals to repair and storage depots, customer receiving facilities and tank container operators - to look at what their roles and responsibilities are for safe access. We believe that the uniform and rigorous implementation of these new standards across the industry, according to an eight-year plan

suggested by ITCO, will lead to notable improvements in the working at height safety levels."

As a first step, the ITCO protocol calls for the tank industry to minimise the need to access the tops of tank containers, not least by encouraging the provision of bottom loading facilities at the point of loading and bottom discharge arrangements at receiving terminals.

The protocol recognises that the need to access the top of tank containers cannot always be eliminated and that people working on top of tank containers need additional levels of protection. Collapsible handrails of the type fitted on top of road tankers are not suitable for ISO tank containers and are likely to suffer damage due to the many modes of transport encompassed in a typical tank container journey, and their stowage on container ships. An estimated 60-70 per cent of the global fleet of 250,000 tank containers are engaged on deepsea routes, sailing on container ships.

The ITCO protocol calls for the responsibility of preventing falls to be shared by all the depot and terminal facilities handling tank containers through the provision of appropriate and effective control measures, such as fixed gantry and walkway arrangements, with handrails where appropriate. "As a result of 35 years of industry experience, ITCO and its members are of the opinion that having tailor-made measures, such as fixed gantry structures at the depot and terminal sites, will provide higher levels of working at height safety than handrails fitted to the tanks," adds Reg Lee.

Kevin Allars, Head of the Chemical Industries Division in the Health and Safety Executive, commented that, "I am pleased to see that ITCO has been able to take forward its discussions on preventing falls from tank containers, in cooperation with the Health and Safety

Executive, to produce a protocol for application amongst its members, not only in Great Britain but also across Europe and possibly more widely. Falls from the tops of tank containers can result in serious injury or death. This initiative by ITCO should, over time, make an important contribution to the reduction in injury and death in this area."

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You will find a copy of ITCO's protocol available for download from this web-site.

Our technical people have worked long time to get this protocol in place and I would like to thank Graham Wood, Colin Humphrey and John Wilson for all their efforts and hard work on behalf of the ITCO members.

Regards

Reginald Lee
President ITCO