

Gantry Crane Weather/Rain Curtain Failure



Safety Alert



The Solution

Early investigation by the shipping line indicates that the failure was structural. They have issued a safety notice to their vessel fleet ensuring that crane weather/rain curtains are not used until they have been inspected.

The MCA were present on the vessel at the time of the incident for a proactive inspection and duly issued a prohibition notice preventing use of the deck cranes until the curtains had been made safe.

Measures taken by the vessel crew after the incident involved securing and isolating the remaining curtain of the forward crane and the two curtains on the aft deck crane to prevent them from being used or from falling.

The following should be considered when crew are required to deploy weather/rain curtains:

- Ensure good co-operation, co-ordination and communication is maintained between crew and shore based personnel;
- Remain vigilant for crew member movements in and around deck;
- Operations are temporarily ceased to allow crew to undertake their duties; and,
- Shore based personnel should vacate the crane and the vessel hold.

Minimum briefing to be ticked:

Management	✓	Supervisors	✓
Operations	✓	Engineering	
Admin		Marine	✓
All Employees		Noticeboards	



The Facts

During the discharge of a deep sea ply wood vessel using the forward deck gantry crane, a crew member accessed the crane while it was in operation. The crane driver, vessel supervisor and the stevedores working in the hold were unaware of this.

The crew member began to operate the crane's weather/rain curtain and as it started to unfurl, its central core structure failed. This caused the whole curtain and part of its mechanism to fall to the deck, narrowly missing another crew member in the process.

The curtain itself bounced and rolled towards the open hold, damaging the hold's edge protection rail before coming to a rest partly hanging over the hold's combing.

Issued on behalf of Forth Ports Limited by:
Health, Safety & Environment Department

* Please remove from notice board after 1 month

**SAFETY
FIRST**