

Issued: Thursday 16th July 2020

Reference: SB 20 002

Significant Injury (Lost Time Incident)

Liverpool Containers, Terminal 2

On the 8th of July 2020, a lashing operative was adjusting twistlocks on a fourth-height container in order to allow the container to be lifted.

To adjust the twistlock, he had to pull downwards on the lashing equipment (a metal pole known as a “knocking off” stick). The downward movement caused his little finger to become jammed, likely against the steel barrier which was positioned on the vessel walkway/lashing bay area.

Unfortunately, our colleague suffered a painful fracture which later required hospital treatment (an operation to stabilise the bone). The incident is currently being investigated to establish the root cause and the necessary actions to prevent a recurrence. In the meantime, a review of lashing equipment and procedures will be conducted to confirm their fitness for purpose.

Port Skills and Safety confirm that statistically, container vessels present a higher risk of injury than any other type of vessel visiting UK ports. Lashing operatives are encouraged to remain vigilant at all times, be aware of their surroundings, report hazards and look out for one another. With appropriate planning and teamwork, all injuries can be prevented.

We wish our colleague a full and rapid recovery.

Work Safe. Home safe.

