

Pedestrian Safety at Truck and Rail Docks

The first and preferred approach to managing pedestrians in dock areas is to prohibit their presence for all but essential activities unless they are in clearly designated and understood “safe areas.” When absolutely necessary to go outside of the established safe area, the pedestrian must stop any loading/unloading activity in the immediate area where he/she will be working and ensure good communication and visibility with dock personnel. To this end, the following practices are to be followed.

Truck Docks

When cleaning outdoors around docks, performing maintenance on locking mechanisms (dock locks) or dock levelers/plates, working outside of a dock location without a trailer present, or whenever a pedestrian is present in the inside dock area, but outside of the established / clearly marked safe area, the following steps are to be followed by the person entering the area:

- Check in with the shipping/receiving office to request permission to enter the truck dock area and have all operations in the area you will be working temporarily suspended.
- **For outdoor work**, conspicuously place barricades, cones, flags on a pole, and/or other warning devices at the extreme outward side of the dock location, so as to be seen by drivers. The purpose of this is to warn drivers and to protect workers from the potential of truck trailers backing into the dock location while service is being performed. Have dock doors above the location being worked on closed, whenever possible, to prevent any materials falling from the dock onto the workers below.
- **For both outdoor AND indoor work**, place cones, flags, and/or other warning devices indoors in front of the bay to be worked on and ensure all loading/unloading activity in this bay is temporarily suspended.
- Wear an article of high visibility clothing (arc-rated if performing electrical work) and activate any additional pedestrian warning systems in place at the facility.

Rail Docks

When absolutely necessary for a pedestrian to enter an active rail dock, the following steps are to be followed by the person entering the area:

- Check in with the shipping/receiving office to request permission to enter the rail dock area and have all operations in the area you will be working temporarily suspended.
- Wear an article of high visibility clothing (arc-rated if performing electrical work) and activate any additional pedestrian warning systems in place at the facility.
- Place a visible barrier, such as cones, at the entrance to the dock area where you will be working.