



# RISK REMINDER

February 2022

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

## Avoiding Injuries from Opening and Closing Cargo Container Doors/Latches

Would you consider opening your frozen car door with a crow bar or fork truck? I doubt it! Why try opening a cargo container with one? Getting frustrated and using improper tools or force often ends up with someone being hurt.

Injuries from opening/closing container doors have been increasing, usually from improper techniques. The following steps will help prevent employee injuries:

- Container handles should be directly in front of you and at a height that is above the waist and below the shoulders.
- **Technique is important!** Start with the two lock rods on the right hand door, then lift the handles out of the retainers and rotate them together as far as they will go. Then grasp the vertical locking bars, one in each hand, and pull back with your body, using leg muscles rather than your back.
- If the door is still stuck, open the locking bars on the left door then grasp the inner locking rod of both doors and pull back, again using your body not back! If the door still will not open, ask for help – one person pull on one door while another pulls on the other.
- If the door is still stuck, use an appropriate opening tool specifically designed to open containers.
- Report any container that needs maintenance! Rusty hinges, blocked gaskets, racked frames, missing hinges – are examples of why containers may not open correctly.



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