

Attachment 1
Advisory Committee Background and Overview
General Industry Safety Orders, Section 4906(c) and proposed new Section 4906.1
Container-Handling Rubber-Tired Gantry Cranes

Background:

Section 4906(c), requires container-handling, rubber-tired, gantry crane (RTG) wheels to be guarded to the front and rear. Current verbiage requires the guarding to be “extended to the lowest practicable level above ground.” This verbiage was last amended in July 1995. Prior to that time, Section 4906(c) contained an additional provision that the wheel guards function to push a person out of the way in order to prevent them from being run over by the RTG.

Petition No. 495, received in 2007, requested the Board to amend Section 4906(c) to restore the performance-oriented verbiage that existed prior to 1995 (Board’s decision is attached). As part of the petition evaluation, and subsequent to that time, Board staff has been studying the issues raised by the petition in light of resistance to reinstating the pre-1995 performance-oriented verbiage. Board staff is also aware that much has changed in intermodal container handling since 1995. Therefore, the Board is proposing to convene an advisory committee to consider updating Section 4906(c) based on current industry practices, procedures and technology in order to improve worker safety in the area of an operating RTG.

Overview:

The proposed rulemaking would include the following provisions:

- Clarify Section 4885, definition of “Container-Handling Rubber-Tired Gantry Crane.”
- Relocate existing Section 4906(c) verbatim to new Section 4906.1(a).
- Prescribe administrative and procedural safeguards for safety of ground personnel, including
 - Only essential personnel in immediate vicinity of the crane.
 - Automatic warning devices (horns, lights, etc.) to activate at least 3 seconds before the crane starts moving.
 - The crane operator shall be in radio communication with a spotter on the ground and obtain clearance from the spotter before moving.
- Automatic means of detecting personnel in the path of travel may be used in lieu of a spotter.