



The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System
Le réseau Grands Lacs - Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent

2012 - NOTICE TO SHIPPING #8

**NIAGARA REGION
WELLAND CANAL**

**VESSEL PERSONNEL SAFETY WHEN WORKING AROUND HANDS FREE
MOORING (HFM) EQUIPMENT AT LOCK 7**

Owners/Masters are advised that the intent of this notice is to ensure proper communication with shipboard personnel of the possible hazards associated with the use of the Hands Free Mooring (HFM) equipment, while in motion.

As the HFM equipment may move at any time during a lockage (e.g. when a pad goes up to the parked position after a failure to attach to a vessel), the SLSMC must ensure that either proper machine guarding is in place, or that the hazards associated with the possible movement of the HFM equipment are properly communicated to all affected personnel. Due to the nature of the HFM equipment and the environment within which it operates, machine guarding is not possible. In these types of circumstances, CSA allows the operation of this machinery without the presence of machine guarding, provided that particular attention is paid to the generation, training, communication and supervision of Safe Working Practices.

The hazards identified with the possibility of moving HFM equipment are pinching, crushing, pulling, hoisting and other similar hazards associated with moving machinery. **Mariners are reminded to stay clear of the HFM equipment at all times, while transiting through our locks.** Signs will be posted in the slots in the near future, to further emphasize the hazards. We are also considering adding an audible chirping alarm and a strobe light mounted on top of the units.

The SLSMC is asking for your commitment in ensuring that all of your affected employees are informed and trained on the above-mentioned hazards. In addition, this training will need to occur on an ongoing basis, as any new employees affected will need to be informed and trained on the contents of this communiqué.

Your cooperation in ensuring that all of your affected employees are informed and trained on the contents of this communiqué is greatly appreciated.

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