

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERALD, FLYNN,
MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING EMPLOYEE SAFETY WITHIN BOSTON'S OIL TERMINALS

- WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council has the authority to adopt ordinances designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all residents and workers of the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Currently, there are four active oil terminals along Chelsea Creek with one located at 467 Chelsea St. in East Boston. All of these facilities operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The East Boston oil terminal is the busiest terminal in terms of volume of petroleum products delivered by ship and the highest volume of transit carrying oil in the area. The East Boston oil terminal provides over 1.6 million gallons of jet fuel a day to Logan Airport. Additionally, another 1.6 million gallons are transported out of the terminal by tanker trucks; *and*
- WHEREAS,** All three other oil terminals surrounding the Chelsea Creek have mandatory staffing to ensure protection of the environment, property, and especially the public; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Chelsea has enacted legislation to standardize the minimum requirement of staffing to ensure trained employees are always onsite. This staffing guardrail provides additional layers of safety during the offloading and onloading of petroleum at terminals. The East Boston oil terminal only requires one operator onsite, unless a vessel is at the dock; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Having only one trained operator onsite at any time creates a variety of safety concerns. This includes leaving the terminal unattended during times when the operator has to perform offsite duties, lack of immediate support if the operator is injured, immense size and volume of operations, and the need to leave the site to activate a spill response in the event of a leak or failure at the terminal; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Staffing needs must be aligned across industry standards in order to guarantee the safety of terminal employees and the overall safety of the public; *and*

WHEREAS, Further protection to employees and residents is required for the oil terminals that exist within the city; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows:

ORDINANCE REGULATING OIL TERMINALS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows: That the City of Boston Municipal Code, Section 17-15.2 is hereby amended by adding the following provisions:

SECTION 1

DEFINITIONS

1. *Marine Terminal Operator* shall mean a person overseeing the operations of offloading and onloading petroleum and other hazardous materials from ship vessels to motor vehicles at oil terminals. Such persons must hold industry-recognized certifications and complete periodic training as required under this ordinance.
2. *Oil Terminal* shall mean any facility or location within the City of Boston used for the storage, transfer, or handling of petroleum, petrochemicals, or other hazardous materials from maritime vessels to other modes of transportation, including motor vehicles.
3. *Emergency Response Plan* shall mean a comprehensive plan, updated annually, outlining the procedures for addressing spills, fires, explosions, and other hazardous material emergencies at oil terminals.

SECTION 2

STAFFING AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

1. Staffing Requirements:
 - a. All oil terminals within the boundaries of the City of Boston shall have at minimum two trained employees on duty at all times.
 - i. At least one such trained employee shall be a Marine Terminal Operator who has knowledge and training in the following areas:
 1. Storage tank type, location, and operation of all valves including pressure relief devices, operations of all piping and valves, and emergency venting operations.
 2. Operations of the loading rack(s), including emergency venting operations.
 3. Offloading operations at the dock, including ship-to-shore connections and emergency procedures.
 4. Operations of the fire suppression system(s).
 5. Spill and product release procedures, including proper notification of the fire department,
 - ii. The second trained employee shall have knowledge and training in the following areas:
 1. Storage tank type, location, and emergency procedures.

2. Operations of loading rack(s), including emergency procedures.
 3. Operations of the fire suppression system(s).
 4. Spill and product release procedures, including proper notification of the fire department.
 - b. Whenever there are offloading operations at the dock involving hazardous materials, there shall be at least two Marine Terminal Operators on duty, with one stationed at the loading rack and one at the dock site for immediate response capability.
2. Training Standards:
 - a. All employees designated as Marine Terminal Operators or fulfilling duties outlined in this section must complete training programs compliant with OSHA standards, NFPA 30, and HAZWOPER regulations.
 - b. Employees shall undergo refresher training at least annually, with documentation maintained on-site and available for inspection by the City of Boston Fire Department.
3. Emergency Preparedness:
 - a. Oil terminals shall develop and submit an Emergency Response Plan to the Boston Fire Department for approval annually. This plan must include:
 - i. Spill containment, cleanup procedures, and notification protocols.
 - ii. Fire suppression and evacuation protocols.
 - iii. Coordination procedures with local emergency services.
 1. Terminals must maintain a dedicated 24/7 communication line to facilitate immediate coordination with emergency services.
4. Inspection and Compliance:
 - a. The City of Boston Inspectional Services Department, in collaboration with the Boston Fire Department, shall conduct unannounced inspections of oil terminals to ensure compliance with staffing, training, and safety requirements.
 - b. Violations of this ordinance shall result in fines as determined by applicable laws and enforced by the Inspectional Services Department. Repeated or severe violations may result in the suspension or revocation of operating permits until deficiencies are rectified.

SECTION 3

Effective Date: This ordinance shall take effect 180 days from the date of passage. All oil terminals must certify compliance with staffing and training requirements and submit Emergency Response Plans within this timeframe.

Filed on: January 8, 2025