CONTAINER YARD OPERATION



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Introduction

A container yard determines how fast a terminal moves, because every crane cycle and every truck visit depends on where boxes are stacked and how quickly they can be found. Poor stacking creates rehandling, missed connections, and demurrage charges that the terminal and its customers both pay for. This Container Yard Operation Training Course gives terminal planners, yard supervisors, and port operations staff a complete method for running a yard productively and safely. Participants learn yard layout and capacity, stacking strategy, stacking height rules, equipment allocation, housekeeping, and performance measurement. Furthermore, the course covers safety, dangerous goods segregation, and the operator discipline that keeps records and reality aligned.

Container Yard Operation Course Objectives

- Apply yard layout and zoning principles to container terminal operations.
- Calculate yard capacity and stacking density for different cargo types.
- Design stacking strategy by discharge port, weight, size, and category.
- Plan rehandling avoidance and reduce unproductive moves.
- Allocate yard equipment: reach stackers, RTGs, RMGs, and terminal tractors.
- Manage import, export, transhipment, and empty container flows.
- Apply dangerous goods and reefer segregation rules inside the yard.
- Control housekeeping, inspection, and container damage reporting.
- Use terminal operating systems for yard planning and tracking.
- Measure performance with yard productivity, dwell time, and rehandling rate.

Course Methodology

- Facilitated sessions built on real yard plans, stacking data, and vessel records.
- Stacking and slotting exercises using live container and vessel data.

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- Case workshops on congestion, rehandling spikes, and missed connections.
- Simulation of a yard planning cycle with shifting priorities.
- Group exercise on a yard productivity and safety improvement plan.

Who Should Take This Course

- Container terminal planners and yard supervisors.
- Port operations and marine terminal staff.
- Equipment and handling supervisors.
- Shipping line and agency operations officers.
- Dangerous goods and safety officers at terminals.
- Logistics and customs liaison staff.

Container Yard Operation Course Outlines

Day 1: Yard Layout, Zoning, and Capacity

- Yard functions and its link to quay and gate operations.
- Zoning by cargo type: import, export, transhipment, empty, and reefer.
- Block, bay, row, and tier numbering systems.
- Yard capacity calculation and stacking density by cargo type.
- Ground slots, stacking height, and weight restrictions.
- Yard equipment interfaces and travel paths.
- Yard layout documentation and updating practice.

Day 2: Stacking Strategy and Planning Logic

- Stacking by discharge port, vessel, size, and weight class.

- Segregation rules for hazardous, reefer, and out-of-gauge cargo.
- Planning export stacks against vessel cut-off and stowage plan.
- Import stack planning for gate and rail release.
- Transhipment staging and connection windows.
- Empty container positioning and re-use planning.
- Reducing rehandling through look-ahead planning.

Day 3: Equipment, Labour, and Productivity

- Yard equipment types and their working envelopes.
- Crane and reach stacker productivity factors.
- Terminal tractor routing and queue management.
- Labour planning and shift deployment in the yard.
- Fuel, tyre, and maintenance considerations for yard equipment.
- Twin-lift and double-cycle operating techniques.
- Matching equipment to workload to avoid idle time.

Day 4: Safety, Dangerous Goods, and Yard Discipline

- Safety rules for yard operations and pedestrian movement.
- Container stacking stability and wind load considerations.
- Dangerous goods classes, segregation tables, and inspection.
- Reefer monitoring, temperature recording, and plug points.
- Inspection routines, damage reporting, and container condition checks.
- Housekeeping, cleanliness, and traffic management.
- Emergency response and incident reporting in the yard.

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Day 5: Systems, Performance, and Continuous Improvement

- Terminal operating systems for yard planning and tracking.
- Data accuracy, location updates, and reconciliation practice.
- KPIs: yard productivity, dwell time, rehandling rate, and utilisation.
- Congestion identification and short-term recovery measures.
- Yard audit and inspection readiness.
- Coordination with quay, gate, and rail operations.
- Building a yard improvement roadmap with measurable targets.

Conclusion

By successfully completing the Container Yard Operation Training Course, participants will have acquired a thorough working knowledge of yard layout and capacity, stacking strategy, equipment and labour allocation, dangerous goods and safety discipline, terminal operating systems, and yard performance measurement. They will leave able to plan a yard that moves boxes with fewer rehandles, cut dwell time, and run safely under congested conditions. Gentex Training Center delivers this programme with terminal and port practitioners who run these yards in live operations.

FAQs for the Container Yard Operation course

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Q1 What is the "Container Yard Operation" course about?

It is a five-day programme on running a container terminal yard. It covers yard layout and capacity, stacking strategy, equipment and labour allocation, dangerous goods and safety rules, terminal operating systems, and performance measurement.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Container Yard Operation" course?

Participants cut rehandling and unproductive moves, reduce dwell time and demurrage exposure, and use yard equipment and labour more efficiently. They also gain safety and segregation discipline that protects people and keeps the terminal compliant.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Container Yard Operation" course?

You will gain yard layout and capacity planning, stacking strategy and rehandling reduction, yard equipment and labour allocation, and dangerous goods, safety, and yard performance management.

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Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Container Yard Operation" course?

The course works with block, bay, row and tier numbering systems, yard capacity and stacking density calculation, stacking by discharge port and weight class, hazardous and out-of-gauge segregation rules, export stack planning against vessel cut-off and stowage plans, transhipment staging, empty container positioning, reach stacker, RTG, RMG and terminal tractor productivity factors, twin-lift and double-cycle techniques, dangerous goods segregation tables, reefer temperature monitoring, terminal operating systems for yard planning, and KPIs including yard productivity, dwell time, rehandling rate and utilisation.

Q5 How is the "Container Yard Operation" course applied in real-world practice?

Teams apply it when planning export stacks for a vessel call, deciding stacking height for a block, allocating equipment across the yard, checking dangerous goods segregation, investigating a rehandling spike, and reviewing dwell time and yard productivity each month.