



## **Work Safety Alert**

### **Trapped by the Tailgate of a Truck**

- 1. Date of Accident :** May 2014
- 2. Place of Accident :** At roadside
- 3. Summary :**

A worker was trapped to his death between the tailgate and the body chassis of a truck.

#### **4. Work Safety Alert for Employers/Truck Owners :**

To prevent workers from being injured by the tailgate of a truck while undertaking cargo handling, the truck owner and employer concerned should take the following safety measures:

- the tailgate should be designed and constructed in a way that gradual motion of the tailgate is ensured throughout its operation;
- the tailgate should be operated in an inching mode by a two-hand control device in such a way that concurrent use of both hands to engage the control buttons is required to set the tailgate in motion, and removal of a hand from any control button will cause the tailgate to stop immediately;
- the tailgate should be equipped with a tripping device to stop its operation when access of persons to the trapping zone between the tailgate and the truck chassis is detected; suitable audio/visual signals at appropriate position to warn persons of the trapping hazard should be installed;
- the trapping zone at the clearance between the loading platform edge and the tailgate should be effectively guarded to prevent injuries to the legs or other body parts of persons;



- the tailgate and the above safety features should be regularly inspected by a competent person and properly maintained to ensure its safe and efficient operation;
- job specific risk assessments should be conducted and safe working procedures should be formulated accordingly;
- steps should be taken to avoid access of any person to the closing nip between the tailgate and the rear end of the truck while the tailgate is being operated;
- if inspection to the truck compartment is required, the tailgate should be fully opened and be stationary during the whole process;
- effective communication system should be in place among workers and the driver/operator;
- prominent warning notices should be displayed at appropriate position to alert workers of the trapping hazards; and
- the workers should be provided with necessary safety information, instruction, training and supervision.

## 5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [安全指引 — 預防被貨車尾板夾傷的危險](#)<sup>1</sup> (Chinese version only)

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<sup>1</sup> Click to view the document



職業安全及健康部  
Occupational Safety and Health Branch  
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Labour Department



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