



Work Safety Alert

Struck by a Front Loader

- 1. Date of Accident :** February 2016
- 2. Place of Accident :** A refuse transfer station

3. Summary :

A worker was struck to death by a reversing front loader (a type of loadshifting machinery) at a refuse transfer station.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/employees from being struck by moving loadshifting machinery in a workplace, the contractor/employer should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments in identifying all potential hazards associated with the operation of the loadshifting machinery, taking into account of the workplace environment and the passage of pedestrians including workers/employees and other persons staying in the workplace;
- formulate and implement an effective traffic management system which should include, but not limited to, the following:
 - providing and maintaining safe walkways away from moving loadshifting machinery for pedestrians to move around the workplace;
 - demarcating designated walkways for pedestrians by suitable barriers and signages;
 - displaying notices at prominent locations to alert pedestrians to the loadshifting machinery and remind them of using the designated walkways;



- exercising control measures to avoid unauthorised entry into the operating zone where the loadshifting machinery operates or travels;
- equipping loadshifting machinery with suitable safety devices, such as closed-circuit televisions to enhance the operator's view of the road condition, and installing audio/visual alarms for reversing motion to alert pedestrians nearby. All devices shall be properly maintained to ensure effectiveness;
- appointing a signaler to give signals to the loadshifting machinery operator if the operator does not have a clear and unrestricted view of the road condition;
- ensuring that every worker/employee of the workplace is wearing a high visibility or reflective jacket so that they could easily be seen;
- ensuring that a loadshifting machinery is only operated by a person who holds a valid certificate relevant to the type of machine;
- provide all workers/employees, including operators and signalers, of the workplace with adequate information, instruction and training in respect of the traffic management system; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure strict and full compliance with all the above safety measures.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Loadshifting Machinery\) Regulation¹](#)
- [Guidance Notes for Safe Use of Fork-lift Trucks¹](#)

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This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.