



Work Safety Alert Trapped by the Tail Lift of a Lorry

1. **Date of Accident :** June 2016
2. **Place of Accident :** At the loading bay inside a factory building
3. **Summary :**

A lorry driver was trapped to his death between the tail lift and the rear end of a lorry.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Lorry Owners/ Proprietors/ Employers :**

To prevent any person from being trapped by the tail lift of a lorry, the lorry owner and proprietor/ employer responsible for loading/ unloading or checking of goods should:

- appoint a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments in identifying all potential hazards associated with tail lift operation;
- formulate safe work methods and procedures prior to the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and in line with relevant guidelines and manufacturer's instructions/ recommendations;
- ensure that the design, construction and installation of the tail lift conform to relevant national/ international standards or provisions;
- ensure that the tail lift is equipped with a two-hand control device which conforms to relevant national/ international standards or provisions. The two-hand control device should fulfill the following requirements:-



- if one or both of the actuators (e.g. control buttons) are disengaged, the tail lift will stop its operation immediately;
- the span of the edges of the actuators of the two-hand control device should not be less than 260 millimetres;
- the centre line of the two-hand control device should be at a distance of between 300 millimetres and 600 millimetres from the rear end of the lorry body with due regard to operational needs;
- install an effective tripping device to stop the operation of the tail lift immediately upon detection of any access to the dangerous trapping zone;
- install suitable audio and visual warning devices, such as buzzers flashing lamps, etc., on the lorry to alert workers / passersby to the trapping hazard created by the operation of tail lift;
- maintain the whole process of opening and closing of tail lift at a slow and even speed;
- ensure that the tail lift, including its safety devices, is regularly inspected by a competent person and properly maintained to ensure its safe and effective operation;
- ensure that no one is allowed to go near the closing nip between the tail lift and the rear end of the lorry body when the tail lift is in operation;
- if inspection to the lorry compartment is required, ensure that the tail lift is kept fully opened and remains stationary throughout the whole process;
- where work is carried out by more than one worker, implement an effective communication system among them;



- display warning notices in prominent positions to alert workers to the trapping hazard;
- provide all workers involved with the necessary safety information, instruction, training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establish and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)¹
- [Guidance Notes on Prevention of Trapping Hazard of Tail Lifts](#)¹

DISCLAIMER

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.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.

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