



Work Safety Alert Trapped underneath the Dump Body of a Grab Loader

1. **Date of Accident :** January 2017
2. **Place of Accident :** A civil works site
3. **Summary :**

An operator while engaging in maintenance of a grab loader underneath its raised dump body, was trapped to death between the loader chassis and the dump body which suddenly descended.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Owners/ Contractors/ Employers :**

To ensure the safety and health of workers/ employees engaged in inspection, maintenance and repair work underneath the dump body of a plant such as grab loader, the owner of the plant/ contractor/ employer should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with plant inspection, maintenance or repair work, taking into account the nature of work to be carried out and the working environment;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the plant inspection, maintenance or repair work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, particularly for work underneath raised dump body of the plant;



- ensuring that suitable support device(s) of sufficient capacity is/are used to withstand the dump body in raised position and capable of being locked in position to prevent accidental slip or displacement leading to any movement of the dump body while inspection, maintenance or repair work is being performed;
- ensuring that the design, construction and installation of the support devices are in line with the relevant international standards and in conformity with manufacturer's specifications/instructions;
- demarcating and properly barricading an operating zone for the work underneath the dump body and exercising strict access control with suitable warning notices displayed at prominent positions to prohibit unauthorised entry into the zone;
- ensuring that every lever, handle or similar device for controlling the raising and lowering of the dump body is suitably constructed and positioned to avoid accidental actuation and clearly marked to indicate its purpose and mode of operation, and prohibiting unauthorised access to these control devices when work is being carried out underneath the dump body;
- ensuring that plant inspection, maintenance or repair work are carried out by a person who is competent by virtue of training and practical experience;
- providing the operator and the workers/ employees involved with the necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures for the work; and
- establishing and implementing 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

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.

¹ Click to view document