



Work Safety Alert

Pressed to death by a Machine Component on a Vehicle Platform

- 1. Date of Accident :** July 2020
- 2. Place of Accident :** A foundation site
- 3. Summary :**

While a worker was squatting on the loading platform of a lorry to secure a machine component that had been loaded in a slanting position on the loading platform, the machine component suddenly displaced and pressed on him, resulting in his fatal injury.

4. Work Safety Alert for Contractors/ Proprietors/ Employers :

To ensure the safety of workers/ employees engaged in the loading/ unloading operation on a vehicle platform, the contractors/ proprietors/ employers responsible for the work 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 the work, taking into account the size, weight, shape and stability of the load to be loaded/ unloaded, the design and construction of the vehicle and its bodywork, the equipment for securing the load in the course of work, the workforce required and the working environment, with particular attention paid to any unintended movement/ displacement of the load being handled especially if the load is overhanging;
- formulating safe work methods and procedures for the work with due regard to the results of risk assessments, and following the requirements of relevant safety legislation and guidelines to minimize the risks exposed to the workers/ employees;



- ensuring the vehicle platform on which the load to be handled is of sufficient length and width to avoid load overhanging at the front, rear or sides of the vehicle as far as possible;
- where overhanging load on a vehicle platform is unavoidable, among others,
 - ensuring that the load projection should not be exceeding the relevant legal requirements;
 - ensuring that the load is landed and placed in a safe manner on the vehicle platform;
 - ensuring that the load is properly secured and stabilised to prevent it from being displaced unintentionally in the course of work;
 - ensuring that no workers/ employees work, pass or stay underneath the unsecured load;
- providing all workers/ employees concerned with the necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensuring that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all 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
- [A Guide to Part VII of the Occupational Safety and Health Regulation \(Manual Handling Operations\)](#)¹

¹ Click to view document



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