



SAFETY ALERT

Workers injured on work platform attached to load haul dump

INCIDENT

Two workers were injured while riding on a work platform when carrying out routine maintenance work in an underground coal mine.

Both suffered arm injuries (including a fracture) when the work platform they were working on suddenly pivoted upwards, causing them to be jammed between the mine roof and the top of the work platform.

CIRCUMSTANCES

1. The workers were hanging cables to the roof of the mine.
2. The work platform was attached to the front of a 913 load haul dump (LHD) via a quick detach system (QDS) and was being driven by the LHD operator.
3. While the LHD was being driven in reverse, one wheel traversed a 300mm step in the floor, causing the work platform to suddenly pivot upwards and contact the mine roof.

INVESTIGATION

1. Poor roadway conditions made it difficult for the LHD operator to control the speed of movement of the work platform.
2. The work platform and LHD arrangement is considered an elevated work platform (EWP) under Chapter 5 of the *OHS Regulation 2001*.
3. The work platform and LHD arrangement did not comply with the requirements of clause 142(3)(d) of the *OHS Regulation 2001*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Mines should review their systems of work which require people or materials to be lifted, to ensure they comply with clause 142 of the *OHS Regulation 2001*.
2. EWP should be used with consideration to AS 2550.10 *Cranes, hoists and winches - Safe use – Mobile elevating work platforms*.

Note: People should not be transported on work platforms unless the work platform is designed for travelling (refer cl 5.6 of AS 2550.10)

3. EWP should comply with AS 1418.10 *Cranes, hoists and winches - Elevating work platforms* as far as reasonably practicable.

Note:

- a) Newly designed EWPs must comply with AS 1481.10 (refer to cl 94 *OHS Regulation 2001*).

- b) Newly manufactured EWPs must (as far as is reasonably practicable) be manufactured, inspected and tested according to AS 1418.10, having regards to the designer's specification (refer to cl 103 (3) (c) *OHS Regulation 2001*).
4. Mines should carry out a gap analysis to AS 1418.10 and AS 2550.10 and implement appropriate risk controls (for work platforms attached to LHDs). Particular consideration should be given to:
- The rated capacity of the work platform and LHD arrangement
 - Instability of the work platform
 - Environmental conditions in which the work platform will operate
 - Structural or mechanical failure of the QDS, link arms and hydraulic cylinders and hoses on the LHD
- Note: Consideration should be given to other uses of the LHD which may fatigue these components. These components have failed in the past.
- Platform control and emergency stop for people in the work platform
 - The LHD operator moving the work platform unintentionally
 - Communication between the LHD driver and the people in the work platform
 - Collision of the work platform
- Note: Protection should be considered to prevent injury to persons in the work basket from the roof above.
- Safe access to and from the work platform
 - Emergency decent of the work platform
 - Working from heights, guard rails and protective structures.

NOTE: Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this Safety Alert, and are informed of its content and recommendations. This Safety Alert should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed on the mine's notice board.

Signed



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MINE SAFETY OPERATIONS BRANCH
NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

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