

SAFETY ALERT



TRUCK DRIVER FATALLY INJURED IN WEIGHBRIDGE INCIDENT

INCIDENT

A contract truck driver received fatal head injuries after slipping from the I-Beam of an above-ground weighbridge.

CIRCUMSTANCES

The truck driver was making a delivery to a brick factory and drove the truck onto the weighbridge. It is believed he got down from the truck and slipped off the I-Beam, hitting his head. The I-Beam, which borders the weighbridge, is 210mm wide and was 830mm above ground level.

INVESTIGATION

Although the company operates a clay pit at the site, the weighbridge is considered part of the brick factory, where WorkCover regulates safety and health. WorkCover is investigating the accident.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

As there are many above-ground weighbridges with similar arrangements at mines and quarries around the State, the following recommendation is made:

- that risk assessments are carried out at each site to identify hazards around the operation of weighbridges, and to put effective controls in place.

For example:

- Where drivers are required to get down from their trucks, suitable walkways with handrails are installed either level, or above, and alongside the I-Beam. The walkways may be needed on either side of the weighbridge.
- Where needed, steps with hand rails for accessing walkways are installed.
- A fence or hand rail is erected over the remainder of the I-Beam to prevent people walking on it.

NOTE

It is considered unsafe for truck drivers to tie down their tarpaulins while parked on a weighbridge, and using the I-Beam to walk on.

At night, there can be an additional risk where lighting is provided only at the weighbridge.

If this practice is allowed, a platform and hand rail should be provided along the full length of each side of the weighbridge. Otherwise, a barrier should be installed above the I-Beam, and extra lighting provided away from the weighbridge for truck drivers.

APPROVED

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