

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Road freight transport industry - Falls from trucks

Where people are required to access high areas of transport vehicles, for example tankers, car carriers and livestock carriers, there may be a risk of falling.

The safest course is to eliminate the need to climb onto the vehicles in the first place. Where climbing onto a vehicle is unavoidable, engineering control measures such as guardrails and slip-resistant walkways should be used.

Other control measures to reduce the risk of falls include personal fall protection and fall arrest systems such as restraint belts, harnesses and lanyards. It is important to note however, that when fall arrest systems are used there needs to be at least one other person on site who will be able to rescue the user in the event of a fall.

When accessing high areas of car carriers

Hazards and risks:

- slips, trips and falls from height, particularly when working on the carrier's upper decks
- Falls due to unprotected openings in the deck
- Falls due to poor lighting or weather conditions.

Possible solutions:

- remove or minimise the need to work on top of car carriers
- provide effective edge protection (such as guardrails, enclosing all openings from which a person may fall, and marking edges for high visibility) or provide fall

protection or fall arrest systems (such as restraint belts, harnesses and lanyards)

- provide anti-slip surfaces on all walking or climbing areas
- assess the customer's location for safe access during loading and unloading process.
- ensure there is adequate lighting for the task
- include all safety equipment in maintenance programs
- ensure drivers are aware of falls risks and are adequately trained in the use of safety equipment
- ensure drivers wear footwear with adequate slip resistance, and which is suitable for the work.

When accessing high areas of tankers

Hazards and risks:

- slips, trips and falls from the top of the tanker when accessing or opening tank hatches
- impact injuries from jumping down from the tanker
- falls due to poor lighting or weather conditions.

Possible solutions:

- remove or minimise the need to work on top of tankers
- provide effective edge protection (such as guardrails) or fall protection or fall arrest systems (such as restraint belts, harnesses and lanyards)
- provide anti-slip surfaces on all walking or climbing areas

- ensure there is adequate lighting for the task
- include all safety equipment in maintenance programs
- ensure drivers are aware of fall risks and are adequately trained in the use of safety equipment
- ensure drivers use fall protection or fall arrest equipment where supplied
- ensure drivers wear footwear with adequate slip resistance, and which is suitable for the work.

When accessing high areas of livestock carriers

Hazards and risks:

- slips, trips and falls when moving up ramps or between decks of stock crates
- falls when climbing up the outside or on top of the stock crates
- slips or falls when moving between stock crates
- slips or falls due to loading or unloading in poor lighting or weather, adverse conditions or on uneven ground.

Possible solutions:

- remove or minimise the need to work from heights when loading or unloading livestock carriers.
- provide effective edge protection (such as guardrails) or fall protection or fall arrest systems (such as restraint belts, harnesses and lanyards)
- provide anti-slip surfaces on all walking or climbing areas
- assess the customer location for safe access during loading or unloading
- ensure adequate lighting for the task
- include all safety equipment in maintenance programs
- ensure all drivers are aware of fall risks and are adequately trained in the use of safety equipment
- ensure drivers use fall protection or fall arrest systems where supplied
- ensure drivers wear footwear with adequate slip resistance, and which is suitable for the work.

For more information on falls from trucks and other workplace health and safety issues visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au

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