

# Road freight transport industry

## Plant and equipment

Plant includes:

- machinery, equipment, appliances, pressure vessel, implements and tools
- a component of plant and a fitting, connection, accessory or adjunct to plant
- specified high risk plant – refer to *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995* Schedule 2.

Plant in the Road Freight Transport industry may include:

- trucks
- lifting jacks
- forklifts
- hand trolleys, scissor lift trolleys
- gantries and cranes, mobile hoists
- pallet racking systems
- fall arrest systems/equipment
- work boxes for cranes/forklifts etc
- sliding rails, belts or roller conveyors

## Risk management

A small business operator should undertake risk management in relation to the purchase and use of plant and equipment at the workplace to ensure the selection of suitable control measures.

The Risk Management Code of Practice provides information on control measures and risk management process. A guide can also be found in Appendix six of the Plant Code of Practice 2005.

Generally a person conducting a business or undertaking should:

- carefully observe the task being performed including short cuts and improvisations
- consider what occurs when things go wrong, not just when the procedures are correctly followed
- conduct a risk assessment following changed work methods
- involve those who work with the plant. This provides for valuable input and a training opportunity.

Consideration should be given to the following when carrying out risk assessment for plant:

- design and construction
- positioning of plant in the workplace
- operation
- damaged plant
- dismantled/stored plant
- plant and moving parts
- auditing
- inspection
- servicing
- maintenance
- repair
- modification
- cleaning
- disengaged/stored plant
- transporting plant
- lighting
- ventilation
- wear corrosion and damage
- providing information
- safe work practices; and records

## How can you protect people from risk?

The range of workplace risk control measures are:

- design - allows hazards to be designed out and control measures designed in
- substitution - replacing the material or process with a less hazardous one
- redesign - redesigning plant or work processes to reduce or eliminate risk
- separation - isolating the hazard from people
- administration - adjusting the time or conditions of risk exposure
- personal protective equipment (PPE) - using appropriately designed and properly fitted equipment where other control measures are not practicable.

## Is the protection effective?

Control measures should be reviewed to ensure effectiveness and identify the potential for controlling new hazards.

## Train your workers

Provide training for all new and existing workers and others who:

- purchase plant to ensure that the design complies with the appropriate standard
- operate, maintain, inspect or audit plant
- train others to operate, maintain, inspect or audit plant
- on the safe use and maintenance of plant
- to be on the look out for any hazards associated with plant, and to report these to the responsible person
- when new plant is introduced to the workplace.

## Records

Work practices with respect to plant should be documented.

Where practicable, keep records on:

- the item of plant, such as the identification number and the design drawings
- calculations
- maintenance, any major repairs or modifications
- audits and inspections
- results of risk assessments
- information, instruction and training given to workers about how to use plant and the associated risks
- work practices used where plant is involved
- procedures for consulting with workers.

Records can be the basis of work procedures and may be useful as evidence of meeting your obligations if a worker is injured and the matter is brought before a court.

For more information on plant, equipment and other workplace health and safety issues visit

[www.dir.qld.gov.au](http://www.dir.qld.gov.au)

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