

Warburtons change vehicles to reduce accidents

Reducing falls from vehicles case study 1

This case study is part of a series, which give examples of good practice to reduce injuries due to falls from vehicles through sensible management of health and safety risks in the workplace.

The challenge

Warburtons bakery discovered, while reviewing their accident data, that their employees were experiencing problems when getting in and out of their vehicles.

Employees were using rear tail lifts to reach the delivery load area. Access was needed on small jobs for short periods. Employees were tempted to make short cuts using the partially deployed tail lift as a step, which increased the risk of accidents.

Restricted kerbside parking in busy delivery locations also made it difficult to use the tail lift.



Figure 1 Tail lift on vehicle

Making it safe and easy

Some Warburtons vehicles have side access doors with internal steps. Employees get in without having to use the tail lift and found these vehicles easier and much more convenient.



Figure 2 Side door with internal steps

Results

Warburtons have fitted their fleet with side access doors and integral steps. This has reduced reported accidents significantly.

Also helping is the improved employee induction and refresher training. In-house video equipment allows staff to watch a short video containing:

- the importance of three-point contact when getting in or out of the vehicle;
- correct use of the rear tail lift for larger drops; and
- the use of the side access doors for smaller drops.