

Milbank Trucks reduce the risks of falls from vehicles

Reducing falls from vehicles case study 9

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

Milbank Trucks are a haulage firm and a leading member of their industry association, ALLMI. The company recognise that accessing the bed of vehicles to assist loading, unloading or sheeting is common across all industries. Numerous solutions have been designed which remove the need for access, such as automated sheeting devices. However, there are still some occasions where access is necessary.

The solution

Milbank Trucks have improved access to and from the bed of their vehicles for their drivers, to reduce risks from falls from height. Working with Commercial Body Fittings Ltd they fitted ladder steps and two handholds to their fleet. The ladders are fitted to the underside of the load bed and are on a bracket, which allows them to be stored away with a double-locking mechanism when the vehicle is moving, and slid into place when the operatives need to get on or off.

The results

The improvements provide a much better standard of access and workers don't climb the side guard on the vehicle chassis or use an unfixed ladder, which was becoming common in the industry.

The ladders are fixed to the vehicle so they cannot be forgotten, lost or just as importantly, slip when in use. They are operated on an easy to use, simple sliding bracket. As the ladders are stored under the load bed there is also more space for the load.



Figure 1 Fixed ladders providing safe and easy access

Milbank discovered there was insufficient toe space between the top step and the toolbox behind so they removed the remaining step to provide an equal distance between the first and second steps and the load bed itself.



Figure 2 Two handholds fitted at different levels for getting on and off.