

Travis Perkins - building safer deliveries

Reduction in accidents thanks to vehicle changes

Reducing falls from vehicles case study 12

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

Travis Perkins Group is a leading supplier to the UK building and construction industry, supplying over 150 000 product lines to professionals and self-builders. They have a fleet of over 1900 vehicles, and approximately 1000 have lorry-mounted cranes fitted.

The vehicle designs are continually reviewed and upgraded where possible, for example, remote control for the crane operation was added from 2005.

Working with their drivers and the vehicle body builder, Massey Truck Engineering Ltd, Travis Perkins fully reviewed their existing vehicle access arrangements on those with lorry-mounted cranes in response to the new Work at Height Regulations 2005. The aims of the review have been to minimise the handling required on the bed of the vehicle and improve access and working areas on their vehicles.

The solution and benefits

Travis Perkins have now provided access at the centre of the bed of the vehicle, fitting handholds on the central posts, and improving the grip by introducing a new surface to the side rails of the body where it is well known their employees climb up.



Figure 1 Side access steps and handhold.



Figure 2 Crane access and working platform

From 1998, safe working platforms have been fitted near the headboard of the vehicle (with front mounted cranes) so the operator can safely use the controls, and have a relatively clear view of the load. This has been improved further with a better slip-resistant surface for the access steps, a suitably placed handhold to assist the operator when climbing up or down, and a working platform with full edge protection from which to work safely, with no risk of falling from the vehicle. A cut-out is also being provided in the headboard to allow access onto the vehicle bed.

Finally, the rear of the vehicle will be provided with dedicated access steps and working platform. The tail board has also been cut out to allow safe access onto the bed of the vehicle when necessary.



Figure 3 Bespoke rear access and working platform

These modifications will be fitted as standard to all new vehicles and consideration is being given to retro-fitting selected improvements where practicable.