

Donaldson Timber Engineering removes the risk of falls from vehicles

Information sheet WPT14

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

Donaldson Timber Engineering Ltd (DTE), the UK's largest truss rafter manufacturer, identified that customers had problems when unloading trussed rafters from the lorry by crane.

Slings were required to climb the trusses onto the lorry to cut the securing ropes. They were then required to attach the sling or chains to the truss and connect them to the crane before sliding back down from the truss.

Finding a solution

DTE introduced a colour-coded-banding system. Blue bands are now used to secure the trusses into bundles and white bands secure the trussed rafters to the vehicle frame. This development eliminated the risk of the wrong band being cut during the unloading process. The drivers, who have been issued with telescopic cutting poles, now have no need to climb onto the lorry.



Figure 1 Colour-coded-banding system

The next development was the introduction of sacrificial slings attached at the factory. As these are accessible from the ground by the slingers there is again no need to climb onto the vehicle.



Figure 2 Telescopic cutting pole

Results

The introduction of these measures has eliminated the risk of falls from vehicles. In addition, as there is now no requirement for the use of fall arrest systems, there have been savings in time and money. DTE customers are now able to unload vehicles quicker and safer.



Figure 3 Slings accessible from the ground

Further information

HSE website: www.hse.gov.uk

Workplace transport: www.hse.gov.uk/workplacetransport

Slips and trips: www.hse.gov.uk/slips

Falls from height: www.hse.gov.uk/falls

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WPT01 Information sheet HSE 2007 [www.hse.gov.uk/
pubns/wpt01.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wpt01.pdf)

*Safe access to road-going vehicles: Specifying the right
equipment* WPT02 Information sheet HSE 2007 [www.hse.
gov.uk/pubns/wpt02.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wpt02.pdf)

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accidents* WPT06 Information sheet HSE 2007 [www.hse.
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- The crane access platform area has been redesigned to provide an access point to the body from the platform.
- The access platform design of tarmac vehicles has been changed, and allows spillages to fall into a catchments tray, while providing improved grip.

Figure 3 Folding ladder with grab handles

Figure 4 Highlighted steps and handles

Awareness campaign

- Top tips flyers were sent to site managers' home addresses, advising them on how to avoid falls from vehicles within their teams.
- Top tips flyers were given out to drivers and passengers of vehicles over 7.5 tonne on how they could avoid falling from a vehicle.
- A presentation on 'Falls from vehicles' was circulated and used as a briefing by regional HSE teams.
- Stickers were placed on cab doors to remind passengers to always use three points of contact when getting in and out of the vehicle.

Further information

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