Wearing of Seatbelts when using Plant

Toolbox Talk E56

This information sheet outlines the precautions necessary to ensure the safe use of Plant in the construction industry.

It is aimed at managers and drivers and all those who influence th e use of site plant. The term 'plant' refers to machinery, equipment and apparatus used for an industrial activity. Typically, in construction, 'plant' refers to heavy machinery and equipment used during construction works.

Site dumpers are involved in around a third of construction transport accidents, causing many deaths and serious injuries, particularly to drivers.

The main causes of dumper accidents are:

- overturning on slopes and rough ground and at the edges of excavations, embankments etc;
- travelling when a high lift skip is in its raised position;
- incidents where a pedestrian is run over by the front wheels of the dumper;
- driver thrown from vehicle while travelling over rough ground;
- driver error due to lack of experience and training, e.g. accidental operation of controls.

Drivers

Many accidents are the result of untrained or inexperienced workers driving construction vehicles. The use of any site plant or vehicle should be restricted to competent drivers who have been authorised to operate that vehicle. Help prevent any unauthorised use by:

- only allowing authorised drivers to hold vehicle keys. Drivers should not loan keys to other workers;
- instructing drivers to turn off a vehicle's engine and remove the key whenever they leave that vehicle.

Drivers should also be trained in the safe operation of the specific dumpers that they are required to drive. This may include, for example:

- layout and operation of the controls;
- stability limits;
- daily checks, and how to do them safely.

Drivers (LEGAL VIEW) - The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998.

Rolling over of mobile work equipment

26.—(1) Every employer shall ensure that where there is a risk to an employee riding on mobile work equipment from its rolling over, it is minimised by

a) stabilising the work equipment;
b) a structure which ensures that the work equipment does no more than fall on its side;
c) a structure giving sufficient clearance to anyone being carried if it overturns further than that; or
d) a device giving comparable protection.

(2) Where there is a risk of anyone being carried by mobile work equipment being crushed by its rolling over, the employer shall ensure that it has a suitable restraining system for him.

Ensure that at all times, if a seatbelt (restraint) is provided, you wear the seatbelt at all times when operating your items of plant.

Drivers (LEGAL VIEW) The Health and Safety at work Act.

Section 7 General duties of employees at work.
It shall be the duty of every employee while at work

a) to take reasonable care for the health and safety of himself and of other persons who may be affected by his acts or omissions at work; and

b) as regards any duty or requirement imposed on his employer or any other person by or under any of the relevant statutory provisions, to co operate with him so far as is necessary to enable that duty or requirement to be performed or complied with.

IT'S A LEGAL DUTY TO COMPLY WITH YOUR EMPLOYER.

The correct use of the seat restraint is an essential part of the ROPS protection system and is designed to hold the driver in position when the vehicle tips over. A ROPS bar on its own will not adequately protect the driver in the event of a roll over. Drivers will instinctively try to jump clear of the vehicle as it tips, but often this is only partially successful and they suffer serious injuries from being trapped by the vehicle as it comes to rest. **It is safer to be held by the seat restraint within the area protected by the ROPS.**

CARNEY
CONSULTANCY

Sign Off Form

If you have any questions or concerns then please speak to your supervisor.

Tool Box Talk Title	
Date	
Given By	
Project Name	

Names of those who attended this toolbox talk	
Name	**Signature**