



Work Safety Alert

Fall from Unprotected Edge of Belt Loader

- 1. Date of Accident :** October 2024
- 2. Place of Accident :** An airport apron
- 3. Summary :**

While a worker was working at the upper end of a belt loader's conveyor on the airport apron, he somehow fell from an unprotected edge of the conveyor to the ground for a distance of about 3 m. He suffered serious head and neck injuries and passed away 4 days later.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers from falling from height while carrying out cargo loading and unloading work on the conveyor of the belt loader, the proprietors/ employers should provide and maintain the following precautionary measures:

- ensuring that every side of the conveyor of the belt loader from which workers are liable to fall is properly protected;
- ensuring that guard-rails with telescopic sections should be provided to the conveyor and, before opening/ closing a cargo compartment door, they should be suitably adjusted to minimise the gap between the belt loader and the aircraft fuselage;
- ensuring that special attention shall be paid to the risk of falling when opening/ closing the cargo compartment door in either a standing or a kneeling working position;
- providing and maintaining suitable and adequate safe means of access to and egress from every place of work for every worker;



- setting up and implementing a safe system of work for the cargo loading and unloading work with due regard to work at height safety;
- providing all workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training, and ensure that they are familiar with the safe work procedures and relevant safety measures; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure all safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference¹ :

- [Overview of Work-at-Height Safety](#)
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training](#)
- [A Casebook of Fatal Accidents related to Work-at-height](#)

DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/ adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.

¹ Click to view documents