



Work Safety Alert Trapped by the Tailgate of a Truck

1. **Date of Accident :** December 2012
2. **Place of Accident :** A logistics centre in Chek Lap Kok
3. **Summary :**

A truck driver was trapped to his death between the tailgate and the body chassis of a truck when he was checking loads inside.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Employers/ Truck Owners :**

To prevent any person from being trapped by the tailgate of a truck, the truck owner and the employer responsible for cargo loading/unloading operation should:

- conduct risk assessments and formulate safe working procedures for the tailgate operation;
- ensure that safety features of the tailgate are installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions/national or international standards, e.g. gradual motion of the tailgate throughout its operation and immediate stoppage of the tailgate motion when its control button is released;
- as far as practicable, equip the tailgate with suitable audio/visual signals to warn persons of the trapping hazard and tripping device to stop the tailgate operation when access of persons to the trapping zone is detected;
- not allow any person to get close to the closing nip between the tailgate and the rear end of the truck while the tailgate is being operated;



- if inspection to the truck compartment is required, ensure that the tailgate is fully opened and be stationary during the whole process;
- ensure that an effective communication system is in place among workers and the driver involved in cargo loading/unloading operation with the use of tailgate;
- ensure that the tailgate including its safety features is regularly inspected by a competent person and properly maintained to ensure its safe and efficient operation;
- display prominent warning notices to alert workers of the trapping hazards; and
- provide the workers involved with necessary safety information, instruction, training and supervision.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹

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.

¹ Click to view the document