



Work Safety Alert Overturn of a Front Loader

1. **Date of Accident :** June 2015

2. **Place of Accident :** A wharf

3. **Summary :**

A front loader suddenly overturned while it was being operated to stack a container. As a result, the operator of the front loader was injured.

4. **Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/Employers :**

To prevent the overturn of front loader, proprietor/employer should provide and maintain a safe system of work for container handling operation with the use of front loader which should, among others, include the following:

- conduct task-specific risk assessments and formulate appropriate safe working procedures with due regard to the working environment, the ground condition and the limitations of the front loader as specified by the manufacturer's instructions;
- ensure that the front loader has been inspected, tested and examined regularly; and properly maintained before it is used;
- install and properly maintain suitable safety devices on the front loader, such as automatic safe load indicator;
- develop and maintain an effective preventive maintenance programme to ensure that all safety devices are maintained in an efficient state and function effectively at all times;
- ensure that the front loader is not used to handle a load greater than its safe working capacity and the safe working load chart should be affixed in a prominent position on the front loader;



- ensure that the load should be carried in a stable manner. Unless during stacking or de-stacking, the load should be kept as low as possible to the driving surface in order to minimize the risk of overturn;
- ensure that the front loader is operated by a person who is competent in operating the equipment safely; and holds a valid and relevant certificate;
- provide relevant safety training, adequate information, instruction and supervision to all personnel involved such as maintenance workers, front loader operators and the supervisory personnel; and
- develop and implement an effective monitoring and control system to ensure that the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment](#)¹
- [Safe Systems of Work](#)¹
- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Cargo and Container Handling\) Regulations](#)¹
- [Code of Practice on Mechanical Handling Safety in Container Yards](#)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.

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