

Worker struck by container

On 1 October 2021, a side loader operator was unloading a 20-foot container onto the ground at a container yard, when it struck a worker during the unloading process. The worker was pronounced dead at the scene.



Overview of accident scene.

Recommendations

Such accidents could be prevented with the following measures:

- Implement a workplace traffic management plan to separate moving vehicles from people. Ensure all vehicle operators and workers on site are familiar with the plan.
- Check regularly that all markings on the ground to separate vehicles from people (e.g. stop lines, pedestrian lanes, crossing points) are clearly visible.
- Deploy only side loader operators who have passed the Workforce Skills Qualification "Operate Forklift" course (for heavy forklifts as applicable) and undergone refresher training within the last three years.
- Consider the use of technology to alert the operator of people close by, and to alert people to the vehicle. This includes blind spot cameras, 360-degree proximity detection and alert systems, and alarms to indicate vehicle movement and loading/unloading activity.

* Information on the accident is based on preliminary investigations by the Ministry of Manpower as at 5 October 2021. This may be subject to change as investigations are still on-going. Please also note that the recommendations provided here are not exhaustive and they are meant to enhance workplace safety and health so that a recurrence may be prevented. The information and recommendations provided are not to be construed as implying liability on any party nor should it be taken to encapsulate all the responsibilities and obligations under the law.

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