Fatal 2 - Front end loader (FEL) reversed into pedestrian pod.

WHAT HAPPENED

While performing an ad hoc task of moving concrete planters, a front end loader operator reversed into a pedestrian pod, damaging the Armco barrier and a pedestrian gate. There was no restricted access to the walkway or pedestrian crossing whilst this activity was taking place. A risk assessment had been completed by the site supervisor based on using one machine to move the planters but not a second FEL. The risk assessment had not identified the pedestrian pod as a hazard, and neither operator had been involved in the process.

ROOT CAUSES

Primary

- Insufficient identification of hazards during the creation of the risk assessment.

Contributing

- Neither operator was directly involved in the risk assessment process and neither had identified that using a second machine was a significant change for which an additional risk assessment should have been completed.
- The operator was not fully concentrating on all elements of the activity as they were talking on the radio whilst reversing





LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

Local

- Risk assessment toolbox talk to be delivered to all site personnel.
- Site survey to review walkways and re-route them where possible.

National

- All machine operators must ensure the machine is in a safe position before using a radio, to maintain full focus and control during operation.
- All individuals involved in a task must actively participate in the risk assessment process to ensure shared understanding and accountability.
- Everyone involved in the task must read, understand, and acknowledge the relevant risk assessment or documentation before undertaking the task.

LOCATION:	**RAILHEAD**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**MOBILE PLANT OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**18/12/2025 13:39:38**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**NO SUB ACTIVITY AVAILABLE**	**INCIDENT No:**	**04965**