Neck strain sustained whilst descending from loading shovel

WHAT HAPPENED

Whilst descending from a Komatsu W480 loading shovel, an operative ‘jarred’ his neck and shoulder as he strained to find his footing.



Steps leading down from loading shovel

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

The investigation found that although the driver descended in the correct manner, the flexible step moved and caused him to strain while attempting to find his footing. The step had also suffered some damage and the bracket was bent as a result. Additional findings show that mudguard sizes differ and in some cases are absent. This increases the likelihood of the step becoming muddy \ wet and further underlines the importance of daily \ operator plant checks.

A hydraulic step system has been ordered for the loading shovel. All personnel should be aware of this type of ‘flexi’ step and where possible, a new step system should be discussed and fitted, similar to the one shown below.



Hydraulic Flexi Step

LOCATION:	**QUARRY**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS / DELIVERY**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**11/07/2007**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**MOBILE PLANT**	**INCIDENT No:**	**00131**