Operator's leg fractured by spreader beam

WHAT HAPPENED

An accident at a factory producing hollow core slabs was caused by the lifting chains fitted to the underside of spreader beam making the beam unstable – see image.

The IP (Injured person), a trained overhead crane operator, was moving a spreader beam from one location to another to allow the floor to be cleaned. The spreader beam was attached to an overhead crane and as the IP set the spreader beam onto the ground it became unstable. The beam had been resting on the chains on the underside of the beam. Once the IP released the crane from the spreader beam, it fell over and fractured his leg.



Chains on spreader beam

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

• Stabilisers have now been fixed to this and other spreader beams that have the potential to fall over.
• Risk assessments and safe systems of work have been reviewed, updated and communicated



Spreader beam with stabiliser

LOCATION:	**CONCRETE PRODUCTS PLANT**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**LIFTING**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**24/10/2016 11:04:31**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**NO SUB ACTIVITY AVAILABLE**	**INCIDENT No:**	**01443**