

# Fatal 3 - TRANSPORT - Employee driver falls exiting cab and injures leg

## WHAT HAPPENED

An employee cement tanker night driver loaded his vehicle and proceeded to the weighbridge. He stopped the vehicle too close to the weighbridge platform and, as a result, the cab door wouldn't open fully as the underside was catching on the platform.



Rather than repositioning the vehicle, he attempted to exit the cab forwards and fell / slipped onto the gantry, causing a graze to his leg. The Driver continued with his night shift, not reporting the incident until he arrived at the customer's site. Unfortunately, the driver was absent from work as a result of his injury. The image shows the injury sustained.



### KEY FINDINGS

**Workplace layout** - The cabs of the new fleet of Volvos are lower, to aid better vision of vulnerable road users, and therefore the doors were catching on the walkway platform.

**Safe system of work** - Drivers were informed to position their vehicles slightly further away from the platform so the doors wouldn't catch and they could safely access / egress.

**Get a grip** - Due to the cab door hitting the platform, the driver could not exit the vehicle backwards holding onto the grab handles and chose to step out forwards.

**Incident reporting** - The driver should have reported the incident immediately to the Weighbridge or Night Shift Manager in accordance with the reporting protocol.

# LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

## HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

- Review processes to eliminate or reduce the need for drivers to leave their cabs; in this case the site is in a port and port security require the despatch ticket to be stamped with a pass in the weighbridge office.
- As previously instructed, the driver should have repositioned the vehicle when he realised he couldn't open the door fully, enabling him to get out backwards, using both grabrails, giving him 3 points of contact.
- Assess whether any modifications could have been carried out to the platform to overcome the restriction with the doors on the new vehicles.

## KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Can systems be revised to minimise the need for drivers to get in / out of their vehicles?
- Where there is a significant change to people, plant or processes, do we have a management of change procedure to reassess the risks and controls?
- Are incident reporting protocols periodically reinforced?

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**LOCATION:** CEMENT PLANT  
**ACTIVITY:** ACCESS & EGRESS & WORKING AT HEIGHT  
**SUB ACTIVITY:** N/A

**ALERT STATUS:** Normal  
**DATE ISSUED:** 20/03/2024 14:02:20  
**INCIDENT No:** 03701