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www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety

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This publication is available on request in other formats for people with special needs.

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For publication orders

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The advice provided in this pamphlet is basic safety and health information. Ensure you are familiar with your site procedures and, if uncertain, discuss this information with your supervisor and safety and health representative.

Mine safety matters

Vehicle and equipment access





THE HAZARDS

Large mining equipment and vehicles can be difficult to access, alight from, maintain and clean due to the size, height and configuration of the platforms involved.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN

Unsafe or difficult vehicle or equipment access can result in:

- serious injury or death from falls, slips and trips
- repetitive strain injuries to backs and legs

External access ways on mining vehicles can be damaged easily in underground operations and must be inspected and made safe regularly.

SAFE WORK PRACTICES

- Ensure safe and easy access to large equipment for pre-start checks, operation, maintenance, refuelling and cleaning
- Install steps or stairways in preference to vertical ladders
- Ensure steps, rungs, footholds and handholds are highly visible and easily reached by all personnel accessing the equipment
- Inspect access ways, especially steps closest to the ground level, for wear and damage, and test their capability. Tag out if hazardous
- Ensure steps and ladders do not deflect or swing unnecessarily when used
- Position the bottom step or rung no more than 400 mm from the ground
- Take care when alighting from vehicles where the ground is uneven
- Ensure steps, rungs, platforms and walkways have non-slip surfaces and are well maintained. Ensure edges and boundaries are visible
- Provide fully enclosed handrails and gates on elevated work platforms
- Maintain three points of contact when climbing up or down access steps, stairways or ladders
- Make provision for transporting equipment and materials so that both hands are free for climbing ladders
- Ensure access ways are well lit
- Where powered extension steps or ladders are fitted to a vehicle or machine, provide a lock out device that prevents the vehicle or machine from moving or operating while the steps or ladder are in the extended position

- Provide walkways and platforms on which to stand when cleaning windscreens or side windows on equipment cabins and for servicing engines and ancillary equipment
- Request permission and get authorisation from the driver or operator before boarding a vehicle or equipment with limited operator visibility

For further advice, refer to regulation 4.4 — Guards and Handrails, regulation 4.5 — Fall Arrest Equipment and regulation 6.2 — Plant to be Maintained and Operated in a Safe Manner of the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995, and the *Personnel Access to Heavy Mining Machinery* guideline available at www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety

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