



Mines Safety Bulletin No. 132

Subject: Restraining devices on seated-model reach trucks

Date: 14 July 2016

Background

A reach truck is a loading device that is used to arrange goods on pallets and insert pallets into tall shelving structures. A basic reach truck has an outriggering wheel mechanism on the front of the truck. Mounted to the outriggers are a set of telescoping forks that move up and down. The hydraulic forks allow an operator to pick up a load and reposition it over the outriggers. This not only provides an even balance of the load, but also makes it easier to manoeuvre the truck into narrow aisles between the storage shelves.



Example of a seated-model reach truck

Summary of hazard

The Department of Mines and Petroleum has observed that a number of seated-model reach trucks used on Western Australian mines, were without a restraining device fitted (i.e. seat belt).

Use of reach trucks which do not have an approved seat belt fitted could potentially lead to serious injury or worse if the machine were to tip over, brake suddenly or strike an object.

Contributory factors

- Some seated-model reach trucks are supplied to sites without a suitable seat belt being fitted to the operator's seat or the cockpit area.

Actions required

Seat belts for vehicles

Principal employers and mine managers are reminded under the Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995 that the following is required.

- Each vehicle used at the mine is fitted with seat belts and seat belt anchorage points that conform with the Australian Design Rules [r. 4.16(1)(a)].
- If any seat position is added to a vehicle used at a mine, the seat is fitted with a seat belt and seat belt anchorage point that conforms with the Australian Design Rules [r. 4.16(1)(b)].
- If a seat is a suspension seat, the seat belt anchorage must be attached to the seat assembly and the seat belt fitted with the appropriate retractor [r.4.16(2)].
- A person must not, while occupying a seat position in a vehicle to which a seat belt has been fitted for that seat position, drive or travel in that vehicle at a mine unless the person is wearing that seat belt and the seat belt is properly adjusted and securely fastened [r. 4.16(3)].

Import requirements

Persons who import plant for use at a mine must ensure that they comply with regulation 6.9, Mines Safety and Inspection Regulations 1995, which requires:

- if the designer and manufacturer of plant are both outside the jurisdiction of the State, the importer of the plant must carry out the designer's duties, and the manufacturer's duties under regulations 6.3, 6.4, 6.7 and 6.8.

Further information

- Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development,
https://infrastructure.gov.au/roads/motor/design/adr_online.aspx

Third Edition Australian Design Rules

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