# SAFETY ALERT

**MINERAL RESOURCES NEW SOUTH WALES**

**MINE SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT**

## TRUCK DRIVER FATALLY INJURED IN WEIGHBRIDGE INCIDENT

## INCIDENT

A contract truck driver received fatal head injuries after slipping from the I-Beam of an above-ground weighbridge.

## CIRCUMSTANCES

The truck driver was making a delivery to a brick factory and drove the truck onto the weighbridge. It is believed he got down from the truck and slipped off the I-Beam, hitting his head. The I-Beam, which borders the weighbridge, is 210mm wide and was 830mm above ground level.

## INVESTIGATION

Although the company operates a clay pit at the site, the weighbridge is considered part of the brick factory, where WorkCover regulates safety and health. WorkCover is investigating the accident.

## RECOMMENDATION(S)

As there are many above-ground weighbridges with similar arrangements at mines and quarries around the State, the following recommendation is made:

- that risk assessments are carried out at each site to identify hazards around the operation of weighbridges, and to put effective controls in place.

For example:

- ❑ Where drivers are required to get down from their trucks, suitable walkways with handrails are installed either level, or above, and alongside the I-Beam. The walkways may be needed on either side of the weighbridge.
- ❑ Where needed, steps with hand rails for accessing walkways are installed.
- ❑ A fence or hand rail is erected over the remainder of the I-Beam to prevent people walking on it.

### NOTE

It is considered unsafe for truck drivers to tie down their tarpaulins while parked on a weighbridge, and using the I-Beam to walk on.

At night, there can be an additional risk where lighting is provided only at the weighbridge.

If this practice is allowed, a platform and hand rail should be provided along the full length of each side of the weighbridge. Otherwise, a barrier should be installed above the I-Beam, and extra lighting provided away from the weighbridge for truck drivers.

### APPROVED

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