

# Preventing workers falling from trucks

## Risk identification and action plan tool

The transport industry has a high rate of injuries from workers falling from trucks, trailers and working around trucks at ground level on site. The risks of these falls are commonly associated with the design of a vehicle, the equipment used, and work practices and behaviour.

The purpose of this tool is to help you identify and manage falls risks by consulting with your workers and forming a consultative safety group to develop solutions.

The risk identification process will require the coordinator (ideally a work health and safety officer or manager) to select at least one driver, one workshop worker and one manager from the organisation to form the consultative safety group. This group should represent a vertical slice of the business and can scale up to 12 workers. The process will also require a truck and trailer, and take around one and half hours to complete.

### Step one

The coordinator leads the group around the truck and trailer to identify potential falls risks, specifically around the:

- cab of the truck – working on the cab, getting in and out of the cab
- trailer – walking, climbing and working on the trailer
- site – working around the truck at ground level.

During this first step, the coordinator should encourage the group to consider factors that may increase the risk of a fall, such as the type of activities to be carried out on/around the truck or trailer, the behaviours of the workers when they interact with the truck and trailer, and the design of the truck and trailer.

### Step two

The group should return to a meeting room to discuss their risk identification. One approach is to select the most common identified falls risk and talk about practical ways to address that risk. The coordinator should record this information on the tool.

Once a risk and solution has been agreed, the coordinator should seek a nominee from each area to form a 'responsible group' (one driver, one workshop worker, a manager, and the coordinator, who will act as a contact between the members of the responsible group) who will implement the changes. The responsible group should develop a plan to implement the changes including timeframes and assigning personal responsibilities, and facilitate/oversee the implementation. Any changes should be reviewed by the coordinator and manager to ensure they are implemented.

## Step one: Identify falls risks

Walk around the truck, trailer and the site. Talk with the other participants to identify how activities and behaviours, as well as vehicle and equipment design, could increase the risk of a fall. For example:

1. Working on or getting in and out of the cab of a truck
  - No three points of contact for entry into the cab of the truck.
  - Handholds are unsafe (e.g. they are out of reach or slippery).
  - Drivers need to climb up on the truck to carry out mechanical maintenance.
  - Foot-holds are unsafe (e.g. made from a slippery material or too small).
  - Drivers need to jump down to dismount from the cab of the truck.
  - Drivers need to climb the truck to clean it.
  - Other.....
  
2. Working, walking and climbing on a trailer
  - No ladder on the trailer or the ladder is awkward to climb.
  - Workers have to climb onto parts of the trailer where there are openings.
  - Tyres are used as steps to climb onto the trailer.
  - Workers need to climb on to the trailer to place chains or webbing over the load.
  - Workers need to jump off the trailer at height to dismount.
  - The trailer has become slippery with contaminants (e.g. water or diesel).
  - Other.....
  
3. Working around the truck at ground level
  - Load area is slippery with contaminants (e.g. water, mud or fuel).
  - Load area has a lot of ground hazards.
  - Load area has visible signs of wear and tear.
  - Workers are not wearing suitable footwear for slippery surfaces.
  - Poor lighting, glare, winds or wet weather around the load area.
  - Access steps around load areas are poorly designed.
  - Other.....

## Step two: Write an action plan

Select one identified falls risk and talk about a practical way to manage it. Then nominate a group who is responsible for implementing these changes, identify who needs to be told about the changes, and set a timeframe to make the changes. After completion, the process should be reviewed by the coordinator and manager to determine if the changes were implemented as planned.

<b>Risk identified:</b>				
<b>How to manage the risk:</b>				
<b>Responsible group</b> Coordinator				
<b>Stages:</b>	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Stage 2</b>	<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>Stage 4</b>
<b>Responsible:</b>	Driver	Workshop worker	Coordinator	Management
<b>Work required:</b>				
<b>Timeframe:</b>				
<b>Consultation is done between:</b>				