

Safe handling when securing loads on trucks advisory tool

This state-wide campaign aims to raise awareness among truck drivers and transport operators of the risks associated with equipment that is used to secure loads on trucks; such as gates, curtains and load tensioners.

This tool will focus on musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) and how MSD risks are being managed, especially the use of fixed lever over-centre load tensioners (dogs) and lever extension bars (cheater bars).

How to use this tool

This advisory tool has been broken into two key sections which focus on different areas.

Part A – Workplace information: Collects key information about the site, driver, vehicle, employer and delivery method.

Part B – Workplace advisory: The Inspector looks at the risk factors for the employee and employer in the workplace relating to loading and unloading. Specifically:

1. handling gates
2. handling curtains
3. placing lashings and corner protectors
4. tensioning chains and webbing.

(Please note: Not all of these sections will necessarily be available to assess at during an advisory at every workplace).

Part C – Other workplace safety issues and comments: If Inspectors identify other issues that are not mentioned in Part B when conducting an advisory, they can write them in this section, including general comments.

How will the campaign finding be used?

Once the campaign has been completed, all of the information gathered will be analysed and used to inform future activities and interventions.

Workplaces may be contacted to participate in an evaluation survey.

Subscribers to the [eSafe](#) will also start to receive regular updates from Workplace Health and Safety Queensland.

Once the advisory tool has been completed

Once an inspector has completed this advisory tool, scan the document and upload it to the GovDex webpage.

CISR Descriptor [TISLOT](#)

CISR Descriptor **TISLOT**

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Part A.1 – Workplace Information

Name of inspector		CISR Advisory no.		Date of visit	
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Site details

Site type	<input type="checkbox"/> Distribution centre <input type="checkbox"/> Warehouse <input type="checkbox"/> Depot <input type="checkbox"/> Logging <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing <input type="checkbox"/> Other				
Legal name				Trading name	
Contact name				ABN	
Contact email				Position	
Site Address				Contact phone	

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Part A.2 – Workplace Information cont'd

Driver and employer details

Driver name		Driver Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Owner Driver <input type="checkbox"/> Employee <input type="checkbox"/> Employer <input type="checkbox"/> Self-employed
Employer legal name or if self-employed		Employer phone	
Employer email			

Vehicle details

Vehicle type	<input type="checkbox"/> B Double <input type="checkbox"/> Rigid <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-trailer <input type="checkbox"/> Type 1 Road train <input type="checkbox"/> Type 2 road train <input type="checkbox"/> AB doubles <input type="checkbox"/> AB triples <input type="checkbox"/> Truck and dog <input type="checkbox"/> Log trailer <input type="checkbox"/> Low loader <input type="checkbox"/> Other.....
Restraining method	<input type="checkbox"/> Side-Curtains <input type="checkbox"/> Gates <input type="checkbox"/> Webbing <input type="checkbox"/> Chains <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Load type	<input type="checkbox"/> General freight <input type="checkbox"/> Logging <input type="checkbox"/> Machinery <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input type="checkbox"/> Timber <input type="checkbox"/> Steel <input type="checkbox"/> Other

Delivery details

Consignor name		Consignee name	
Primary contractor		Contracted to	

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Part B – Workplace advisory

1. Handling gates

Risk factors	High risk Very likely to cause injury (Enforcement action may be required)	Moderate risk Some potential risk of injury (Enforcement action may be required)	Controlled risk Less likely to result in injury	Evidence and comments
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(This section only needs to be completed if the actual task of handling gates is being conducted during the advisory)

High force; and awkward posture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Single worker manually removing or replacing gates between ground and truck height if gates weigh over 12kg or measure greater than 1.2m in height ■ Worker manually removing or replacing gates at shoulder height or above ■ Team of workers manually moving gates between ground and truck at or above shoulder height and gates are heavy, very tall or very wide, ■ Fitting a bent gate or a gate with bent pins. ■ Worker at risk of being struck, pinned or pinched when removing or replace gates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Gate weight supported by straps or rollers by sliding, hinging/swing or suspension systems while being manually moved into place. ■ Gates are moved in and out of position manually from a solid platform between shoulder and knee height. ■ Routine inspections and maintenance of gates is carried out to reduce effort (e.g. by straightening gates and pins). ■ Small and medium sized gates are handled by two people handle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mechanical assistance is used to position gates. For example, a forklift. ■ Load rated side curtains, refer to risks for curtains and load rated curtains may be heavier, increasing risks for curtains folding or sliding side panels or rigid sides. ■ Gates are not used because another effective load restraint such as racking, chocking or flooring purpose built to contain the load is used. 	
High force; and awkward posture				
High or sudden force; and awkward posture				
High or sudden force; and awkward or sustained posture				
Hit or being hit by objects				

2. Handling curtains

Risk factors	High risk Very likely to cause injury (Enforcement action may be required)	Moderate risk Some potential risk of injury (Enforcement action may be required)	Controlled risk Less likely to result in injury	Evidence and comments
(This section only needs to be completed if the actual task of handling curtains is being conducted during the advisory)				
Awkward posture Slips trips and falls High or sudden force; and awkward posture High or sudden force High or sudden force; repetitive movement; and awkward posture High or sudden force; and awkward or sustained posture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Manually opening and closing side-curtains on trucks with hand above head height and/or behind the line of the body. <input type="checkbox"/> Walking backwards with a curtain <input type="checkbox"/> Manually moving curtains forcibly along tracks and/or rollers that are poorly lubricated, poorly designed or damaged. <input type="checkbox"/> Manually moving curtains forcibly past a load resting against the curtain. <input type="checkbox"/> Securing buckles repetitively with forceful wrist/arm exertions or awkward wrist hand positions to close buckles. <input type="checkbox"/> Manually restraining curtains in windy conditions without mechanical restraints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Using an extension strap with handle, webbing and hook for improved pulling position. <input type="checkbox"/> Pulling the open curtains in sections. <input type="checkbox"/> Curtains with a track and rollers that have a plate with double bearings. <input type="checkbox"/> Curtain track and rollers are regularly maintained as per manufacturer instructions. Especially for lubrication. <input type="checkbox"/> Using load tensioners that operate outside the curtains. <input type="checkbox"/> Safe system of work for loading/unloading in windy conditions. (E.g. partially unbuckle curtains to reduce billowing). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic curtains that are self-opening and closing. <input type="checkbox"/> Curtains with a securing system that does not involve buckles. 	

3. Placing lashings and corner protectors

Risk factors	High risk Very likely to cause injury (Enforcement action may be required)	Moderate risk Some potential risk of injury (Enforcement action may be required)	Controlled risk Less likely to result in injury	Evidence and comments
(This section only needs to be completed if the actual task of placing lashings or corner protectors is being conducted during the advisory)				
Repetitive movement; high or sudden force; and awkward posture High or sudden force; awkward posture; and fall from heights Hit or being hit by objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Throwing chains, webbing or lashing over the load. <input type="checkbox"/> Climbing on the truck to place the chains, webbing, other lashings, tarpaulins or corner protectors over the load. <input type="checkbox"/> Other workers at risk of being struck and injured. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Working from a platform ladder or elevating work platform. <input type="checkbox"/> Purpose-built lightweight extension pole, especially one that grips the lashing or corner protector to apply and remove lashing and corner protectors while standing on the ground. <input type="checkbox"/> Using a lead rope to throw and drag chains over the load. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Using a system designed for a Curtain-sider. (E.g. Retracts the webbing straps to the roof of the trailer when not in use). <input type="checkbox"/> Purpose built racking and chocking to eliminate the need for lashings. 	

4. Tensioning chains and webbing

Risk factors	High risk Very likely to cause injury (Enforcement action may be required)	Moderate risk Some potential risk of injury (Enforcement action may be required)	Controlled risk Less likely to result in injury	Evidence and comments
(This section only needs to be completed if the actual task of tensioning chains or webbing is being conducted during the advisory)				
<p>High or sudden force; awkward posture; fall from heights; hit or being hit by objects</p> <p>Hit or being hit by objects</p> <p>Repetitive movement; awkward posture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Using fixed lever over-centre load binders (dogs) to tighten chain with or without using extension handles (cheater bar). <input type="checkbox"/> Using worn or damaged load binders or winches. <input type="checkbox"/> Rapidly tightening or loosening chains and webbing using a winch or hand ratchet load tensioner with awkward wrist postures or over shoulder height. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Using webbing instead of chain. (Note: some types of webbing are not suitable for particular loads). <input type="checkbox"/> Using a turnbuckle or winch type tensioner instead of a dog <input type="checkbox"/> Using a stable platform or stand so that the tensioner can be used between the shoulder and knee height. <input type="checkbox"/> Using winches that do not need repeated handle reinsertion to operate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Using highly geared manual or automatic winch <input type="checkbox"/> Using purpose built load blocking containment systems (e.g. pins, pegs, posts, racks, headboards or goose-neck on a drop deck trailer). <input type="checkbox"/> Rigid side trucks or load rated curtains in combination with inward sloping floors. <input type="checkbox"/> Containment without tiedown. 	

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Part C – Other workplace safety issues and comments

Other workplace safety issues
Comments

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