

Safety and health alert

06/94 Accident involving a beef hide puller

Incident

A male employee suffered four broken ribs, a broken jaw and a fractured skull when he fell 3m from a hide puller onto a guard rail and concrete floor. The incident occurred when a support weld gave way on the driver's side of the puller.

The hide puller is a hydraulically operated elevating work platform with provision for two employees in cages on either side of the puller.

The puller pulls the hide from the beef carcass, the employees assist the hide removal with air operated knives.

Factors

Structural failure of the support weld on the driver's side of the puller due to metal fatigue.

Recommendations

1. All abattoirs using elevating work platforms should ensure that the equipment is structurally sound and regularly inspected for possible signs of metal fatigue.
2. Where the potential for such failure is identified, reinforcing is recommended as part of the equipment maintenance program.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from the WorkSafe internet site www.worksafe.wa.gov.au, or by contacting customer service on 1300 307 877 or email: safety@docep.wa.gov.au.

Date: February 1994

A414243

