

Safety and health alert

37/00 Securing of agricultural boom sprays during transport

Incident

The right hand boom of an agricultural boom spray received structural damage while being transported between paddocks in the Mullewa region. The unsecured boom which had been folded back into its travelling position swung out to its fully extended position and struck a tree.

The incident highlights the serious risk to other road users that could have resulted had the boom disengaged whilst the boom spray was being towed on a public road.

Factors

The safety chains provided were not secured when the boom was placed back into the stowed position, prior to being transported. It is understood that the padlock or shackle provided for this purpose was missing.

Recommendations

1. Transportation of agricultural equipment must comply with the requirements of "*The Road Traffic (Towed Agricultural Implements) Regulations - 1995.*"
2. A documented safe procedure should be displayed on the boom spray informing the operator of the process for securing the boom for transportation in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
3. If chains are used as the securing mechanism the padlock or shackle should be "captured" by light chain or similar. Alternatively a safe locking device that consists of a spring clip, split pin or similar device which is designed to mechanically capture the boom to prevent it flying free during transport could be incorporated. If this method is used the spring clip, split pin or similar should be 'captured' by light chain.

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.

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