

# Safety and health alert

## 05/02 Delivery driver fatally injured

---

### Incident

A 57-year old male driver making a kerb-side delivery of palletised cargo to a central city warehouse suffered fatal injuries when his truck was struck by another vehicle.

The driver had crossed the opposite traffic lane to park near his client's receival area. He stopped his truck in a 'No-Standing' zone with the front of the truck facing oncoming traffic.

The driver parked his truck so close to the lane of passing traffic that there was insufficient space to open the left rear cargo door without it being in the path of oncoming traffic. The palletised nature of the load required both rear cargo doors to be opened. Also, due to the way the truck was parked, the operator could not see oncoming traffic while opening the rear cargo doors, nor could oncoming traffic observe his actions because he was hidden by the truck.

As the driver opened the left rear cargo door, it was struck by the windscreen of an oncoming car. The door then struck the driver at shoulder and head height with sufficient impact to cause fatal injuries.

### Factors

1. Parking the truck so there was insufficient space to open cargo doors without the doors swinging into the path of oncoming traffic.
2. Parking the truck so the truck driver could not view oncoming traffic as he opened the cargo doors.
3. Parking the truck so oncoming traffic could not observe the actions of the driver as he opened the truck's cargo doors.

### Recommendations

1. Drivers obey traffic regulations at all times.
2. Drivers to be aware of the space and route limitations while driving/loading/off-loading especially in the CBD and in any built-up area.
3. Employers and drivers develop safe work practices for work associated with loading/off-loading activities during delivery runs.

### Further Information

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

A413280

Date: July 2002

