

11/03 Employee injured while slinging loads

Safety and health alert

Incident

An employee working for a metal pipe distributor sustained an injury to his left ankle when lengths of stainless steel pipe fell from unstable stands as the pipes were lowered onto the stands by an overhead travelling crane. The bases of the stands were narrow when compared to the surface on which the pipes were intended to rest, and the stands were not fixed to the floor (see photo below). The pipes rolled to one end of the stands (towards the operator) and then one stand fell over.

Factors

- The lateral stability of the stand was not considered at the design or installation stage.
- Employees are required to exercise judgement in the selection and positioning of slings used when required to move pipes in the workplace. (The Regulations define this as "prescribed work").

Recommendations

- Plant that is used in the workplace should be designed and constructed so that it is suitable (safe) for the task.
- Employees required to use plant in the workplace must receive adequate instruction and training on its use.
- Employees required to undertake prescribed work as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996 must hold the required certificate of competency for that work. (eg: for Slinging of loads operators require a dogger's, certificate).
- Where uncertificated persons undertake prescribed work, it must be carried out under the direct supervision of a certificated person, in this case a certificated dogger.

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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