

# Safety and health alert

## 01/95 Lifting aluminium sheets

---

### Incident

A storeman received a severe cut to the forearm when a 9 metre X 1.5 metre aluminium sheet 6mm thick and weighing 220 kg released from a vertical plate clamp while being lifted.

Two aluminium sheets were being lifted together using two vertical plate clamps. One person was operating the overhead travelling crane and another person was guiding the sheets.

The sheets were approximately 300mm from floor level when the end of one sheet released from one of the clamps. This sheet hit the person guiding the load causing the injury.

### Factors

1. The vertical plate clamp should not have lifted more than one sheet at a time.
2. Employees were unaware that there were manufacturer's recommendations and instructions for the use of clamps.
3. The injured employee was in close proximity to a load while it was being lifted.
4. Safe work practices were not implemented or supervised adequately.

### Recommendations

1. Employers must ensure that employees are provided with information, instruction and training in the operation of plant and equipment.
2. Adequate supervision must be provided to ensure that plant and equipment is operated safely.
3. When lifting loads, employees should be clear of the load. Tag lines should be used if necessary.

### 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).

Date: November 1994

A414205

