

# Safety and health alert

## 01/06 Container side lifter overturns

### Incident

Contrary to the manufacturer's instructions, a commercial driver with a 24-tonne container side lifter failed to fully extend and engage the stabiliser legs when unloading a fully laden sea container. The sea container had a net weight of over 20 tonnes. This resulted in the prime mover, side lifter and the container turning over onto its side and falling onto a pedestrian walkway.



### Factors to consider

- The operator failed to engage the stabiliser legs prior to operating the container side lifter to unload the container
- The operator failed to operate the container side lifter in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

### Recommendations

1. Operators of container side lifters must be trained in safe working procedures in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Employers should assess operators and ensure that they are competent prior to operating this type of plant.
3. Where structural damage has occurred to plant, the employer has a legislative requirement to have damaged plant assessed by a competent person prior to its re-introduction into operation at the workplace, as required by Occupational Safety and Health Regulation 4.38(1) of 1996.

### Further information

Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's 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)