

## Truckmixer Chute Hand Injury

### Details of Incident

An Independent Haulage Contractor was cleaning the rear chutes of his truckmixer. Whilst carrying out this task, he swung the chute assembly round, so it was at a right angle to the rear of his truck, to allow access from both sides. He lifted the second chute, which is hinged to the primary chute, into a vertical position (teetering on the balancing point). He then decided he needed to move the chute assembly round further to gain better access. Using two hands, one of which was positioned in the hinged danger zone, he pulled the chute assembly towards himself. At this moment, the vertical positioned chute fell down under gravity, striking and crushing the Driver's left hand; he suffered fractures and laceration to two fingers and was kept in hospital overnight.

### Key Findings

- The finger guard protection device was in place, was clean and was included on the truck mixer checklist.
- The clearance afforded by the finger guard was not totally effective.
- The Driver was wearing the requisite PPE for this task, including gloves.
- The Driver did not report any distractions, had taken sufficient breaks and was in no rush; however there was a lapse of attention.
- The Driver has approximately 15 years experience.

### How Could this Incident Have Been Avoided?

- The driver should not have left the second chute balanced in position and should have relied on the purpose made handle when moving the chute.
- Full concentration, not placing hands in the danger zone.
- Additional warning signage at the hinged danger zone.
- The newer design of truckmixer, incorporating a removable 2nd chute, eliminates the risk.

### Key Review Points

- Are procedures in place for truckmixer cleaning and the safe use of delivery chutes? Have Drivers been trained in these procedures?
- Are finger guards effective in preventing crush injuries where hinged chutes are fitted? Is suitable warning signage in place?
- Are monthly truckmixer checks being carried out thoroughly and accurately, in addition to the driver's daily checks?
- Do VFL observation tours consider non-routine works, such as the cleaning down of trucks?



**Look after yourself and each other**

Don't let anyone act unsafely, always stop unsafe practices.

**Personal Protective Equipment**

Always wear the correct PPE.

**Tools and Equipment**

Use the right, well maintained, tools/equipment for the job. Never make do.

**Safe Systems**

Follow safe systems of work, site rules, signage and traffic signals.