EMEA Safety Alert

LTI Employee

INCIDENT DETAILS

An office-based employee working in the Supply Chain Department was leaving a neighboring office after delivering a plate of cake to a colleague. She was carrying a cup of coffee in her other hand. The employee was wearing high-heeled shoes with an approximate heel height of 10 cm.

While crossing the doorway, the heel of her shoe caught on a raised stone threshold, approximately 10 mm high, separating the office from the corridor.
As a result, she lost her balance and fell, landing on her shoulder and injuring two fingers. First aid was provided immediately. The employee then independently travelled to the hospital for further medical assessment.
The medical examination confirmed that no fractures had occurred. As a precautionary measure, a cervical collar was fitted, and two fingers were immobilized.

REVIEW POINTS

- Are door thresholds, floor transitions, and changes in level clearly visible and free of STF hazards?
- Have all pedestrian routes been inspected for raised edges, uneven surfaces, and other potential tripping hazards?
- Could thresholds or changes in floor level be eliminated, modified, or beveled to reduce the risk of trips?
- Are employees able to maintain a clear view of their walking path when carrying food, beverages, or work-related items?
- Is workplace footwear appropriate for safe movement along pedestrian routes, particularly in areas where floor transitions or level changes exist?

KEY FINDINGS

✓	Employees had the required H&S training and medical examinations.
✗	**Physical condition:** A raised stone threshold of approximately 10 mm created a change in level between the office and corridor
✗	**Footwear:** Approximately 10 cm high heels reduced the contact area and the ability to recover balance after the heel contacted the edge.
✗	**Hands occupied:** A plate with cake was being carried to a colleague, limiting the ability to use a free hand for balance or protection during the fall.
✗	**Behavioural awareness:** Routine social activities during a break can still create risk when attention is divided and both hands are occupied.





Zero4Life

EMEA Safety Alert

LTI Employee
Ankle fracture

CEMEX

INCIDENT DETAILS

The employee was descending a fixed staircase while using both handrails. During the descent, the employee stumbled and their foot became trapped between the steps, causing a fall. As a result of the incident, the employee sustained an ankle injury that was initially identified as a dislocation. Emergency services attended the employee and transported them to the nearest hospital, where, following a medical assessment, an ankle fracture was diagnosed

KEY FINDINGS

✓	The employee was wearing all required PPE.
✓	The employee was descending the staircase using both handrails. There was no sense of urgency, and the employee was moving at an appropriate speed.
✓	The stair treads met the required dimensional specifications, and lighting in the area was adequate at the time of the incident.
×	The handrail configuration changes midway down the staircase, transitioning from a tubular design to a square profile, with both sections at different heights.
×	As a service staircase, its incline is steeper than that of a standard staircase.
×	The staircase was modified six years ago when the new handrail was installed.

POINTS TO REVIEW FOR ALL SITES

- Complete Take 5 before starting work, identifying hazards associated with access routes, stairways, and workplace movements.
- Always use handrails when ascending or descending stairs, avoid rushing, and ensure secure footing on every step.
- Inspect the condition of stairways before use, verifying cleanliness, signage, the condition of steps and handrails, and reporting any defects.
- Verify that lighting is adequate, particularly during night shifts or low-light conditions, and use additional lighting where necessary.
- Ensure any modification to stairways or handrails is managed through the Management of Change (MoC) process before being placed into service.
- Periodically review the design and condition of stairways to ensure there are no features that could create trip, slip, or entrapment hazards.







Get a Grip

Hold handrails on stairways and use three points of contact when getting into/out of vehicles.



Look After Yourself and Each Other

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

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