

Incident Alert

Excavator Tip Over

On Monday 6th Aug, a contractor was unloading a 13-ton excavator from a transport trailer when it slipped sideways off the trailer at the top of the ramp, and tip onto its side.



Investigation Findings

ROOT CAUSE	DIRECT CAUSES	CONTRIBUTING FACTORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient risk assessment and control of the unloading activity. I.e. a pre task walk around risk check and discussion of required mitigation measures did not occur prior to commencing the off-loading task. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trailer was parked on a 9.9 degree sideways slope, which was too steep to safely unload the excavator The rear 1.8m meters of the deck up to the hinge point of the ramp was steel providing insufficient friction between the deck and the excavator tracks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate formal operator training and competency assessment for transporting and handling machinery. <i>This is an industry wide issue as there is no training or competency standard for this task.</i> Stabilising feet located at the end of the beaver tail on the trailer were not engaged Wet and dirty surfaces on the transporter deck and excavator tracks A spotter was not in place to observe and assist the unloading process

Key Learnings and Recommendations

- Undertake a pre-task walk around risk check before unloading any machinery.
- Look into a level indicator that can be mounted onto the tail of transport trailers and create a limit that a trailer can be at to unload.
- Create an in-house training program that will draw on the vast knowledge from a forum of the most experienced operators.

Please read, print out this alert then discuss it with your staff at your toolbox meeting.

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