

**Cefic Workshop Safe and Sustainable Chemical
Transport and Logistics - 26 November 2014,
Antwerp**

**Discussion group on Safe Loading and Unloading
Working at Heights**

HOYER BU Chemilog SHEQ, 11-2014



AUGUST 2009

Code DR-LO-35

Fall from container ladder

Description of incident/accident

In the apparent absence of an infrastructure to enable safe and direct access to the top transport equipment, the driver climbed on top of the container by using its ladder in order to open the manhole and sample the product prior to unloading. When descending down the same ladder, he missed one step with his right foot and fell to the ground. Operators present in the area immediately called upon assistance by Plant Doctor and requested an ambulance be called to take the driver to the hospital.

The driver had to undergo medical surgery due to a shift vertebra and is out for two (2) months.

Root cause

The sample was in his left hand when he was descending the stairs. When he lost his grip he dropped the sample to free his left hand but... too late.

Corrective action

Although it seems apparent that the driver did not observe all the safety precautions, we do have a few additional comments regarding sampling at discharge locations.

- Unloading locations should provide an adequate infrastructure or possibility for safe access to the top of transport equipment.

- The driver, by the way, had a safety harness, although this was of little use at this location since there was no safety line available to attach it to.

This was not relevant in this particular case as one is not hooked up when climbing down.

The absence of such a line, however, should have prompted the driver to decline going on to the top of the equipment.

- We do not support that drivers execute the sampling activity at consignees.

- Sampling is the responsibility of the consignee and should, in principle, be carried out by consignee personnel.

- We support the Chemical Industry guidelines (Issued by Cefic/ECTA) regarding Behaviour Based Safety: Safe Loading / Unloading of Road Freight vehicles, which states that "Drivers should not take samples directly from the road tanker or tank container".

Learning points

At all our sites we have strict procedures for 'working at heights' under which also falls working on top of transport equipment. Most of the loading locations do provide an infrastructure that allows safe access to the top of the containers or trailers as we do want to avoid any 'climbing' activities that inherently carry some risk for our site logistics employees.

In the absence of an adequate infrastructure that enables safe and secure access to the top of transport equipment, we strongly suggest that a procedure for climbing on top of transport equipment be reviewed for operating personnel



Safe Working at height how long will we wait?



Are you the next killer?
Are you prepared ?

FUE(Frequently Used Excuses)



We do not support equipment this is
for the transportcompany



Management does not sponsor investment for
Working at Height



Driver needs to be there anyway so it is up to him
Driver is specialist he should do it



Think responsively, think legislation, think safety
first, think nobody gets hurt

Culture is the word