

INCIDENT TYPE: **DEATH AND NEAR MISS** INVOLVING “BUCKETS” FALLING FROM EXCAVATORS WITH “QUICK HITCH SYSTEMS”

Previously related Safety Bulletins: 008 - Precautions when Replacing Buckets issued 10th Oct 2005

Safety alert received from -



Bucket Kills Operative

What happened

Black and Veatch were notified of this incident by one of their Clients, the fatality occurred on a Bovis site in December 2006. A bucket fell from the arm of an excavator onto a worker who died at the scene.

The excavator used a quick hitch mechanism that required a safety bar/pin or other secondary safety device to be pushed through to ensure that a secure connection is made.

What was the cause

Investigations continue into how the accident occurred, preliminary recommendations have been issued for other companies to be aware of and for implementation as necessary these are as follows:

Recommendations

- Ensure that Excavator operators have been trained in the correct method of attaching buckets that are being used (it should be noted that CPCS courses and worker assessment courses do not cover the changing of buckets).
- Ensure that Manufacturers instruction's on how to attach buckets are available for reference
- Ensure Buckets are attached correctly and that all safety locking bars are positioned and secured prior to work commencing
- Daily and weekly checks of the machines are carried out and recorded in an appropriate inspection register, with any immediate concerns such as reinforcing bar or bent pins are replaced at the time of the inspection.

Safety alert received from -



Bucket Falls from Machine

What happened

During a recent near miss on a 4D site a bucket fitted to an excavator fell off. The bucket was attached via a quick hitch. Part of the quick hitch system required a safety pin and clip fitted. The safety pin and clip were not fitted by the operator.

What was the cause

No clarity as to the physical checks that were made to ensure that the bucket was correctly fitted and that all pins had been located and fitted including any retaining pins.

Recommendations

- The plant operator must be trained and competent to operate any given plant machine. (it should be noted that CPCS courses and worker assessment courses do not cover the changing of buckets).
- The plant operator must physically check that all safety devices are correctly engaged before putting the attached tool to work.
- If the safety devices (Pins-Clips etc) are not provided by hirer then the machine should not be used.
- Plant hire firms must supply the user hand book for the machine supplied.
- Banksman that see any safety equipment not fitted or being correctly used must stop the operator and get the equipment used properly.

What actions should be taken

- Machine operators should not to operate their machine if the supplied Safety Pins securing the attachment to the machine are not fitted or have not been supplied.
- All machines being operated on site should be checked by the Principal Contractor to ensure that Safety devices are fitted.
- Ensure all Plant operators and machine banksmen are fully briefed on this Alert.