



# Slips or trips on decks and trays

## A Road Freight Transport Injury Prevention Solution

### The Problem

Slips, trips and falls may occur when working on untidy trays. This is a common cause of ankle, knee, back and shoulder injuries.

### Common Causes of Injury:

- Loose objects on the tray creating trip hazards.
- An icy and/or a wet tray resulting creating a slippery surface.
- Badly secured loads that may come loose when used as hand-holds.
- Rails or steps that do not allow easy access to the tray.

### Histories:

The following accidents occurred as drivers were getting down from the truck deck. The examples include the cost to the driver in loss of wages and medical treatment.

- The driver slipped on the icy floor of the truck, landing on his buttocks. He injured his back and neck. Direct cost \$9,851.
- The driver tripped and fell off the back of the truck. He grazed and bruised his right arm, and was treated for a possible fracture. Direct cost, \$14,921.
- The driver was securing a load of logs on a truck when the chain slipped. The driver fell back off the truck, injuring his right leg. Direct cost, \$12,083.

### The Consequence of Injury:

#### Direct cost

- Medical costs such as the surcharge for doctors and the cost of medical specialists and chemists.
- The cost to hire a replacement driver.
- Lost wages. If you are self-employed your weekly compensation usually 80% of your previous year's weekly income before tax. Compensation payments begin in the second week off work.
- Possible damage to the goods if being carried.

#### Indirect cost

- Pain and suffering from injuries affecting both work and home life.
- Possible loss of contracts while replacement driver obtained.
- Psychological stress of pain, boredom and inability to earn expected income.



# Procedure for moving on or around truck trays



- Check for slippery surfaces on the truck (eg. load platforms, chassis frame, steps). Apply a non-slip covering over walkways, highlight edges where possible. Ensure footwear is appropriate and in good condition.
- Maintain a clear access around the load, free of loose objects. Stow all loose items. Good house keeping is important.
- Where possible, suitable guard-rails should be fitted.
- Avoid using the load as a means of pulling yourself up to the tray.
- Always use lightweight, non-slip sole, steel cap boots.
- Ensure that the deck surface is always in good repair.

