

*A Close Call was raised on one of our site where it was identified that a haulier was accessing the flatbed of the vehicle with no adequate edge protection.*

*The works were stopped and it was requested to the haulier to provide suitable edge protection to allow their drivers when required to access on top of the vehicle.*

*Loading and unloading are among the most hazardous transport activities in the workplace. People can be hit by objects falling from vehicles, struck by lift trucks, or fall from vehicles.*

*Good communication, co-operation and planning are crucial for safe deliveries and collections as there are usually several people involved.*

*It is important to remember that drivers are not the only people responsible for the safety of the vehicle and the load. The consignor (the person or company who actually places the load onto the vehicle) and those in control of sites must ensure the loading is carried out safely and that the load will remain in a safe and stable condition until it reaches its destination. Those in control of sites where unloading and loading takes place must also ensure it is carried out safely.*

*Hauliers are responsible for ensuring the correct equipment and vehicles are used and their drivers are properly trained and monitored.*

*If access onto the vehicle is likely, how will falls be prevented or fall risks reduced.*

*Drivers are often injured during deliveries and collections.*

*Their employer must ensure they are given adequate safety information beforehand.*

*Simple delivery safety checklists may help them decide whether there are sufficient precautions in place, and to establish criteria for when they can reasonably refuse to continue with a particular delivery or collection. Drivers should be made aware that they are authorised to refuse or stop loading or unloading for safety reasons.*

*Drivers should report to the site office for instructions such as the workplace layout, which route to follow, and where to park, load and unload.*

*The use of bean bags is not the first choice as these are usually not installed correctly or with the correct amount of bags required.*

*The hierarchy of fall protection is:*

*Elimination – Prevent the need for drivers/operatives accessing the vehicle.*

*Guardrails – Provide suitable guardrails to prevent the fall.*

*Fall Restraint – These systems allow a person access to conduct their duties but prevent them from reaching a point where a fall could occur.*

*Fall Arrest – Allows workers to reach a hazard and then protects them if they should fall.*

*The three general principles which suppliers, carriers and recipients should follow are:*

- *Send out safety information on deliveries and collections to other parties in the delivery chain*
- *Request safety information on deliveries and collections from other parties in the delivery chain*
- *Agree a safe delivery plan*

*Arrangements for preventing vehicle accidents during deliveries and collections should be reviewed in consultation with safety representatives, drivers and employees.*

*Consider what further steps you could take in co-operating to reduce risk.*

***It is mandatory for all vehicles that require access have suitable means of fall prevention systems fitted and drivers are suitably trained for the system provided.***

*Any vehicle arriving on an AMCO site without suitable means of fall prevention will be returned **without charge**.*