

Worker dies from crushing head following sudden lowering of elevating platform floor

At about 3:00 p.m. on March 17, 2014, a mechanic working for a tool rental company was doing a painting job on an automated elevator platform. To protect the platform from paint splatters, he installed plastic protectors in different places. To attach the protective plastic behind the hydraulic compartment, he raised the platform. He leaned his torso against the side of the compartment, and therefore against the emergency lowering device that lowers the platform by gravity. His head was squeezed between the bottom of the platform floor and the top of the hydraulic compartment. He was found at 4:00 p.m., and his death was pronounced on the spot.

Causes of the Accident

- The worker was squeezed when the platform suddenly lowered while he was doing a painting job on the equipment.
- The position and design of the platform's emergency lowering device can be activated accidentally.

Fatal Accident

Date: March 17, 2014
Category: Non-sector
Task: Painting
Position: Mechanic



Source photo: CSST
Changes: APSM

Preventative Measures

Comply with the reference standard, CSA B354.2-01 (R2013), Self-Propelled Elevating Work Platforms.

- Protect lowering devices such that they cannot be activated accidentally, specifically by recessing them (**clause 4.8.2**).

Inform workers and train them on the risks associated with using self-propelled elevating work platforms.

- Issue a safety reminder on the use of blocks / restraint bars during inspection and repair work, in order to prevent lowering of the platform by gravity (**clause 5.4.1**).
- Discuss the risks associated with the lowering of the platform.

Verify that corrective measures are permanent.

- Include a protection system for the emergency lowering device in the equipment inspection sheet or checklist.

Additional Information

Regulations

- An Act respecting occupational health and safety, section 51.7
 - Available online or for purchase at www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca
- Regulation respecting occupational health and safety, section 245.5
 - Available online or for purchase at www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca

Other documents

- Commission de la santé et de la sécurité du travail, Direction régionale de la Mauricie et du Centre-du-Québec. *Rapport d'enquête sur accident mortel survenu le 17 mars 2014*. Québec: CSST, 2014 Code: EN-004034
 - Available online at <http://www.centredoc.csst.qc.ca/pdf/ed004034.pdf>
- CSA Group, B354.2-01 (R2013), *Self-Propelled Elevating Work Platforms*
 - Available for purchase at <http://shop.csa.ca/en/canada/elevated-work-platforms/canrsa-b3542-01-r2013/inv/27013472001>

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