

UK HSE: worker injured by falling stack of batteries in flexible intermediate bulk containers

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The UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE) has shared when an employee was severely injured after batteries weighing at least 300kg fell onto him.

What happened?

The UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have issued a [press release](#) relating to a case where an employee was severely injured after batteries weighing at least 300kg fell onto him. The person was working with two colleagues when he was struck by the batteries. The three workers had been restacking the batteries, which were stored in Flexible Intermediate Bulk Containers (FIBCs), after the stack had toppled over.

However, the FIBCs started to rip in front of them leading to the batteries falling on to one of the workers. He suffered a double compound fracture to his lower right leg, a fracture to the left tibia, a fractured right collar bone, some bruising to his ribs and a cut on his forehead.

IOGP Life Saving Rules:



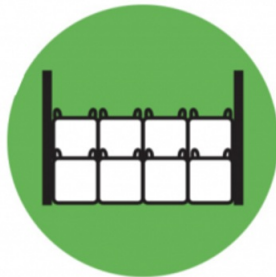
Bypassing safety controls



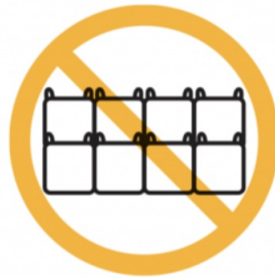
Line of fire



Pyramid Stacking



Supported Stacking



Only stack FIBCs if they are designed to be stacked

Image Courtesy of FIBCA

What went wrong?

The HSE's findings were that the site was overstocked, bags of batteries had been stacked in an unsafe manner and there was no specific documented risk assessments or safe systems of work for the correct stacking and storage of batteries. This was not an isolated incident.

IMCA Members sometimes use FIBCs and incidents of this sort have occurred within the membership, which is why this alert is being passed on as a reminder.

The effectiveness of the IMCA Safety Flash system depends on the industry sharing information and so avoiding repeat incidents. Incidents are classified according to IOGP's Life Saving Rules.

All information is anonymised or sanitised, as appropriate, and warnings for graphic content included where possible.

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