

## UK HSE: fall from height injury at container port

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The UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has prosecuted a logistics company after a worker fell over 10 metres and sustained serious injuries.

### What happened?

The worker fell through an open hole in the driver's cab of a straddle carrier, landing on the concrete floor below. The hole had been created by contractors who were replacing a glass floor. See [press release](#).

#### IOGP Life Saving Rules:



Bypassing safety controls



Working at height



## What went wrong?

- The worker, who was undertaking routine maintenance work, was unaware of the open hole before falling onto the floor.
- The worker's employer had failed to ensure there was a safe system of work at its site – there should have been a system in place that ensured the replacement of the glass floor and routine maintenance work could be carried out safely *at the same time*.
- The company also failed to ensure there was a risk assessment in place.
- The company failed to implement its own policy for the use of permits to work whilst working at height.

## Lessons to learn

Before performing a similar task, persons involved should be asking the following questions:

- Are you aware of what is going on around you? Take nothing for granted, particularly when working at height.
- How are you dealing with simultaneous operations?
- How are you dealing with the complexities of ensuring safe operations if multiple contractors are working at the same worksite at the same time?
- Is your risk assessment suitable and sufficient? Some recent Safety Flash incidents highlight cases where risk assessment was *not specific enough*.
- Are you following your OWN company rules?

Members may wish to refer to:

IMCA M 023 Guidance on simultaneous operations (SIMOPS)

IMCA HSS 032 Guidance on safety in shipyards

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