

BULLETIN

VACC Occupational Health, Safety and Environment



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Overloading of Vehicle Hoists

Over the last year there have been three incidents where trade Utes have fallen off vehicle hoists. With this style of vehicle being heavier, longer and fitted with heavy metal tool boxes containing plant and tools, the risk of falling from the hoist has increased.

The VACC OHSE Unit has observed during recent audits, situations where trade utes are placed on two post hoists and vehicle hoist Safe Work Loads (SWL) have been exceeded. Upon questioning of the vehicles weights, the sites technicians, managers and service advisors were not aware of the vehicles weights until decals and sales brochures were examined.

Since identifying this issue at a number of workshops, the VACC OHSE Unit has performed research on this issue and identified that most of the current four-wheel drive utes and four wheel drives range in weight from 2,800 kg to 3,200 kg. These documented weights from the manufacturers do not include bull/nudge bars, tow bars, tool boxes, plant and other accessories on the vehicle. Based on observation of workshops, vehicles that have the potential to weigh in excess of 3,000 kg were placed on two post vehicle hoists with a SWL of 3,000 kg.

Based on these findings from proactive OHS audits, Members need to be vigilant of vehicle weights and when allocating vehicles for repair, only allocate the repair on vehicle hoists with an appropriate SWL and consider the stability (i.e. weight distribution).

Based on this alert, it is recommended that members do the following:

1. Share this bulletin with managers, supervisors, technicians and service advisors
2. Ensure vehicles hoists are serviced annually and have SWL labelling and decals
3. Review the weights of potential vehicles that may exceed certain hoist capacities
4. If replacing vehicle hoists in the foreseeable future, it is recommended to install a hoist with a larger SWL
5. Allocate heavy vehicles to four post hoists or hoists that can take the load
6. Alert customers with overladen vehicles to remove heavier items from the tray if possible, e.g. gas cylinder kits, air compressors, heavy plant

Should you have any queries please contact the OHSE Unit on (03) 9829 1138.

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