Safety Alert
Grab Truck Access Ladders

home safe and well

7 May 2020

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by Highways England's supply chain partner:

Crown Highways

If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact **Richard.Wilson2@highwaysengland.co.uk**

HEi159

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Title	Grab Truck Access Ladders	Safety Alert No.	CHL 007

On the 07/04/2020 an incident occurred where the driver of a grab truck was climbing the ladder to access the working platform to use the controls for the crane, while doing so the driver's right hand slipped from the hand rail which resulted in them falling from the ladder and landing on their back.

An ambulance was called as a precautionary measure and luckily the driver only suffered bruising but this could have been a lot worse.

The photo to the left shows the area where the incident took place.
The driver was lucky that they did not fall onto the newly installed kerb line as this could have made their injuries a lot worse.

During the investigation the root cause was identified that while you can still maintain three points of contact when using the access ladder, the controls for the crane hinder the handrail which resulted in the driver's right hand slipping from the rail and consequently falling.

This has now been rectified by installing an additional handle on the outside of the rail so the driver can use this instead of having to reach over the crane controls to gain access to the working platform.

The highlighted area shows the crane controls restricting access to the handrail.

The highlighted area shows the new handrail for better access

Lessons learned,

The driver of the vehicle had known about the issue since they had been driving the vehicle (approx 2 years) but had failed to report it. Had they done so the incident could have been avoided.

All vehicles of the same design should be checked so that drivers have easy access to the working platform to avoid another incident of this nature from happening again, and please reinforce to drivers the importance of defect reporting and their legal duties for carrying out defect checks.