



# SAFETY ALERT

## OPERATING LOADING RAMPS ON TRAILERS

8 February 2008

**WorkCover NSW Chief Executive Officer, Jon Blackwell, today issued a safety alert for operating loading ramps on trailers. The Safety Alert was developed following two recent incidents in which two workers were killed when the ramps fell from trailers.**

“The Safety Alert addresses the effective use of controls to ensure the safety of those involved in the operation and maintenance of loading ramps on trailers,” said Mr Blackwell.

“The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001 requires employers and those in control of plant to take all necessary steps to ensure that plant and ancillary equipment are safe for their intended use, maintained in a safe operating condition, and that persons operating them are provided with adequate information for safe use.

“Persons undertaking the lowering and raising of loading ramps should receive adequate information and training and should be supervised to the extent necessary for safe operation,” said Mr Blackwell.

“The manufacturer's instructions regarding operation and maintenance of the ramps should be observed, and a competent person should undertake the inspection,” he said.

“Procedures to deal with hydraulic system malfunctions and structural failures should also be in place and followed.”

“The use of specific measures to eliminate or minimise identified risks should involve the selection of the most effective control measures based on a site-specific risk assessment,” said Mr Blackwell.

The Safety Alert is available at [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au) or more information can be obtained from the WorkCover Assistance Service on **13 10 50**.