



Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

SAFETY ALERT

ARTC NSW No. 18



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TRACTOR AND LOADER BUCKETS

A recent incident has highlighted a dangerous practice of using tractor or loader buckets as an elevated work platform.

There is a high risk of falling or being knocked from the bucket. The potential for serious injury is unacceptable.

The only circumstance that permits such a practice requires the following mandatory safety controls to be in place.

- A man cage certified by an engineer and approved by Work Cover must replace the bucket.
- The tractor or loader must have an automatic levelling function that is integral to the normal functions of the hydraulics. As the man cage is raised or lowered it must remain level.
- A fall restraint harness and lanyard must be worn at all times by occupants and the lanyard must be secured to a certified anchorage point within the man cage.
- Occupants must be trained in working at height and the use of fall restraint equipment.
- The operator of the tractor or loader is to be qualified and remain in control of the machine while ever the man cage is occupied.
- An ARTC authorised Work Method Statement must be available on site and formally reviewed and understood by those who are to use the man cage and the tractor or loader operator.

The unauthorised practice of using a tractor or loader bucket as an elevated work platform is prohibited and is to cease immediately.