

SAFETY ALERT N°69

PACKAGING OF STRONG BACKS

What Happened

On the 11th of January, during the unloading of strong-backs from a low loader using a telehandler the plastic banding around a pack of the strong-backs failed causing the strong-backs to fall into the exclusion zone that had been set up around the lorry.

No one was injured.



Good practices

- ✓ The team did well inspecting the delivery upon arrival and checking the security of the equipment prior to removal of any strapping.
- ✓ It was noted that the green plastic banding securing the individual strong backs seemed light, hence the creation of an exclusion zone to the rear side of the wagon, preventing anyone from entering into the offloading area.
- ✓ The telehandler operator was briefed about the potentially weak banding to the strong back packs and the caution required when approaching the load.
- ✓ The incident was reported to the supplier.

Recommendations

The following control measures should be applied during any unloading operations on site:

- Assess the delivery and check if it is safe to go forward with the unloading (securing of the load, edge protections when access/egress is required on the trailer);
- When applicable, follow the manufacturer's instructions stated in the lifting plan for a safe operation;
- Establish an exclusion zone to the opposite side of loading/off-loading;
- If possible and safe to do so, further banding or ratchet straps should be installed to secure the equipment;
- Make sure you use the suitable lifting equipment and lifting accessories, as per the lifting plan;
- If there is still doubt about the security of the load then it should not be unloaded. Further assistance should be requested or the load sent away.