

Safe Use of Dumpers Supplement Rotating Seat Operational Protocol

Introduction

A number of manufacturers are now supplying a variant of forward tipping dumper but where the operator's seating position can be rotated through 180 degrees and categorised as a rotating seating dumper. This allows the operator to travel the machine either facing the skip or with the skip behind them.

The core rationale for the operator to travel the machine with the skip behind them is that it provides much improved visibility for the direction of travel compared to the operator facing the skip - enhancing safety and welfare of those around the machine. However, there are a number of limited situations where the operator should travel facing the skip.

To provide industry and users with clear guidance as to which position the operator should be when carrying out dumper activities using rotating seat types, the Construction Industry's Plant Safety Group is recommending the following protocol:

Travelling*

- At all times, travel with the skip behind the operator.
- *Exceptions are:*
 - a) *when travelling up and down inclines which in each case, whether laden or unladen, the operator should always be facing the direction of travel;*
 - b) *where operational circumstance dictate that, following a risk assessment, there is a need to travel facing the skip;*
 - c) *during loading and discharging operations.*

Loading/Discharging

- Face the skip when approaching the loading machine and when being loaded;
- Face the skip when approaching the discharging area and when discharging loads.

Irrespective, all operations are subject to risk assessment and method statement.

Note: * *The definition of travelling is going from one place to another, laden or unladen and typically over a distance of some length*



Training and Familiarisation

Specific and adequate training and familiarisation of sufficient duration should be undertaken in accordance with regulatory guidance. The skill and knowledge requirements to safely comply with this guidance are additional to a typical standard forward tipping dumper training syllabus and/or assessment process.