

FACT SHEET

Interlocking gates for material hoists

Background

Material hoists – or builder’s or barrow hoists, as they are commonly known – are used to lift and lower materials, such as concrete, tools and machinery, on construction sites.

Action required

All material hoists (new or used) commissioned at a new site after 1 May 2014 must have interlocking gates, regardless the number of floors in, or height of, the building. Administrative controls, such as chains and gates that are not interlocking, are not acceptable.

Control measures

When using material hoists on a construction site, you should ensure:

- the hoists can only operate when the gates are locked
- the gates only open when the hoist is at the specific platform.

Further information

For more information about the new requirements regarding material hoists, see:

- AS 14187.7 *Cranes (including hoists and winches) – builder’s hoists and associated equipment.*
- AS 2550.7 *Cranes-Safe use – builder’s hoists and associated equipment.*
- section 18 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (What is reasonably practicable?)
- clause 36 of the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* (Hierarchy of controls)
- clause 78 of the *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* (Management of risk of falls)
- *Code of practice for managing the risks of plant in the workplace* see swa.gov.au

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