

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0017
Subject:	Wrist fracture due to incorrectly engaged hook
Date:	September 2006

Incident:

Whilst dogging down (securing) a stack of slit coils the claw hook on the chain has come loose. This caused the driver to lose his balance and fall backwards onto the trailer deck. In doing so the driver put his arm out to break his fall resulting in a small fracture to the wrist.



Claw hook not correctly engaged



Claw hook correctly engaged



Example Grab hooks

Key Lessons:

- When chaining loads it is important to visually inspect and test the system first by applying light pressure before applying maximum force.
- Claw hooks have a greater tendency to come loose than traditional grab hooks.

Recommendations:

- All hook connections should be visually inspected prior to load binding and then the system should be tested by applying light pressure before applying full force to the load binder.
- Communicate incident and conduct refresher training to raise awareness.
- Consider using plain or winged grab hooks in place of claw hooks.

For further information please contact **Ian Cairns** – National Safety Group Co-ordinator:
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