

SAFETY ALERT



AUSTRALIAN STEEL INSTITUTE
SAFETY GROUP

"Sharing incident learnings amongst ASI member companies"

"A vision of a safer steel industry"

Number:	SA0023
Subject:	Appropriate Load Restraint
Date:	March 2007

Incident:

A vehicle transporting 16t load of steel was required to conduct an emergency brake (vehicle only traveling at approximately 10kph). Dogs and chains were employed as secondary control measures for the load. Under the braking strain, one of the dogs snapped. Closer inspection revealed that the dog had a hairline fracture prior to its failure. Investigation into the incident showed that the dog was under rated for the load being transported.



Key Lessons:

- Ensure that an appropriate inspection program is in place and that all loaders & drivers are trained in this program.

Recommendations:

- Have a life span on each of the 'dogs' and keep central register.
- Ensure that the correct load capacity for the device is marked and the dog is colour coded accordingly.
- That the dogs are used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications – users are to be aware of this.
- Not to use 'cheater bars' while tightening load restrained.

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