

To: All Sectors

26 June 2008

Dear Member,

SITA - Mobile Equipment Fatality

Please find below an official statement from SITA UK Ltd in relation to a recent fatality.

"On Thursday 12th June, 2008, an employee of SITA UK Ltd was killed whilst operating a JCB 'Robot' 170 skid-steer shovel. Whilst investigations continue, it would appear that the deceased stood up from the driving position and leaned forward through the opening at the front of the machine. In doing so it is thought he unintentionally activated a control that caused the reach arm to move under power and that his head became trapped between the arm and the body of the machine, resulting in fatal head injuries. The driver's restraining bar was in the raised position.

All such skid-steer machines are fitted with a driver's restraining bar which, when in the raised position, should prevent the operation of both drive and operational functions. It is believed that on this occasion the interlocks governing the isolation of power to the ancillary functions failed. In doing so they appear to have failed to danger, and not failed to safe. There is no warning signal given to operators that the interlock is not operational.

As a precaution, SITA have carried out checks of all it's similar machines, of all makes and models, to ensure that, with the driver's restraining bar in the raised position, all drive and ancillary functions are disabled. Further technical examinations are being carried out".

All members are strongly advised to review their own operating procedures in relation to this tragic event.

Yours sincerely

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Head of Health and Safety

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