



Safety Alert

Teaching Students to Drive Tractors – Instructors Prohibited from Standing on Tractor Stepping Plates

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) has issued a prohibition notice on a state school. The Notice permanently prohibits **ALL** teachers (and instructors) from standing on the stepping plate of a tractor while teaching students to drive tractors.

Investigation of practices at the school by a WHSQ Inspector revealed that teachers were standing on the tractor stepping plate while teaching students to drive tractors. This practice was considered to present “imminent risk of death or serious bodily injury” if the teacher were to fall off the step and land in front of the large moving rear tractor wheel.

Consequences of an incident could include loss of life for the teacher, severe emotional trauma for the student and others, and significant compensation costs.

Recommendations

Ensure that HLS-PR-012: Curriculum Activity Risk Management is followed: Curriculum Activity Risk Management Module *Tractor Driving* is available at:

<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr012/tractordriving.html>

Please contact Phil Cooper, from the Central Office Health and Safety Team on telephone **3235 9964**, for further information on this issue if required.

More Information

HLS-PR-012: Curriculum Activity Risk Management: *Tractor Driving*:
<http://education.qld.gov.au/strategic/eppr/health/hlspr012/tractordriving.html>

Workplace Health & Safety Queensland : *Tractor Safety*:
<http://www.dir.qld.gov.au/workplace/subjects/tractors/index.htm>