



Excavator Bucket Change Incident

An incident occurred recently on one of our projects where an excavator bucket, that had recently been changed, fell from the quick hitch and rolled down the batter of an excavation striking an operative on the back of the leg. Fortunately he was not injured.

Significant findings from the investigation were:

- The excavator was fitted with an audible alarm within the cab that sounds when the quick hitch is not fully engaged. This was defective at the time of the incident. (A functioning alarm is a minimum requirement within the MS Plant Standard)
- The operator had not undertaken shake, rattle and crowding checks following the changing of the bucket.

Actions required by all projects:

- The Quick Hitch Pre-Start Check Form (SH9 FRM06) is to be completed for all excavators with quick hitch fitted.
- All excavators must be checked to ensure the quick hitch alarm is in place and operational, and the machine is to be taken out of service where this is not the case.
- Ensure that a dedicated bucket change area is established at each site, and that the operators are instructed not to leave this area until they have physically checked that bucket/attachments are fully engaged.



See Visual Standard **SHE-VIS-052 – Excavator bucket Change Area**



Safe by choice



Safe by design



Safe lives



Safe places



Safe relationships

REFERENCE	ISSUED	DISPLAY UNTIL
SHE-ALT-2022/008	JAN 2022	SEPT 2022