



This Month's Edition

This month's edition of the RLX Safety Newsletter contains information on:

- Loading & Unloading Livestock;
- Hazard ID and Risk Management; and
- Welding Safety.



Loading & Unloading Livestock

There have been incidents recently at RLX Sites involving the loading/unloading of livestock.

These incidents have resulted in:

- fractures;
- lacerations;
- near misses; and
- bruising to various parts of the body (e.g. legs, hands and torso).

HAZARDS

There are a number of hazards associated with loading/unloading livestock. For example, the person involved could:

- be charged/kicked by an animal during loading/unloading.
- be struck by a gate while closing the gate during loading/unloading.
- be injured by faulty/damaged equipment while loading/unloading livestock.
- fail to use safety equipment and fall off the side/top of livestock crate while loading/unloading.
- fail to engage safety mechanism on adjustable ramp and ramp collapses during loading/unloading.
- trip or fall while running or slip due to wet conditions/manure/urine in yards and loading/unloading ramps.

Many of these injuries can be prevented by ensuring:

- that 2 people are involved in the task.
- the lighting is sufficient for the task if loading/unloading at night.
- that you utilise safe gate techniques when closing gates.
- that all equipment is in working order prior to commencing the task.
- that before you enter pens or yards you take time to observe all livestock and check for signs of aggressiveness.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- RLX SWP 002—Livestock Handling
- RLX SWP 006—Loading/Unloading Livestock
- RLX SWP 028—Handling Fractious Livestock
- RLX SWP 027—Correct Gate Techniques.



Hazard ID & Risk Management

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Identifying hazards in the workplace involves finding things and situations that could potentially cause harm to people. Hazards generally arise from the following aspects of work and their interaction, including:

- physical work environment
- equipment, materials and substances used
- work tasks and how they are performed
- work design and management.

Some hazards are part of the work process such as mechanical hazards, noise or toxic properties of substances. Other hazards result from equipment or machine failures and misuse, chemical spills and structural failures.

A piece of plant, substance or a work process may have many different hazards. Each of these hazards needs to be identified.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Assessing risk involves considering what could happen if someone is exposed to a hazard and the likelihood of it happening. Carrying out a risk assessment can help you evaluate the potential risks that may be involved in an activity or undertaking. A risk assessment can help determine:

- how severe a risk is
- whether any existing control measures are effective
- what action you should take to control the risk
- how urgently the action needs to be taken.

A risk assessment should be done when:

- there is uncertainty about how a hazard may result in injury or illness
- the work activity involves a number of different hazards and there is a lack of understanding about how the hazards may interact with each other to produce new or greater risks
- changes at the workplace occur that may impact on the effectiveness of control measures.

It is mandatory under [Work Health and Safety laws](#) to carry out a risk assessment for high risk activities such as entry into confined spaces, work at heights and live electrical work.

IMPLEMENTING CONTROLS

Once the hazards and their risks are known, controls need to be put in place. The best control measure involves eliminating the risk—that is removing the risk from the workplace. If that is not possible you must minimise risks, so far as is reasonably practicable.

When determining the most suitable controls, you must consider various options and choose the control that most effectively eliminates the hazard or minimises the risk in the circumstances.



Welding can generate metal particulates and noxious gases including ozone, nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide. Sparks and hot metal from welding can cause burns and generate fires and welding flashes can also cause damage to your vision.

HAZARDS

The dangers associated with welding include:

- **The arc** - the temperature can reach 6000 degrees Celsius. The intense ultraviolet and infra-red rays can be harmful to both the welder and anyone else nearby. It is not unusual for welders who are not wearing overalls to suffer symptoms similar to extreme sunburn.
- **The fumes** - depending on the item being welded, in the open air, fumes may be adequately dissipated. However, in confined spaces fumes may be hazardous to health and precautions should be taken. Where it is not possible to ensure good ventilation, a suitable respirator should be worn.
- **The volatile combination of heat and gas** - fatalities have resulted where drums and other containers have exploded as a result of some welding or cutting work. The nature of the previous contents should be established to ensure that any heating does not liberate toxic fumes or cause an explosion.
- **The electrical circuit** - the electrical circuit is a hazard to the welder. The risk of electrical shock is high and welders should note the following points:

INCIDENT PREVENTION

- Never attempt to connect or change welding cables before switching off the power at the mains first.
- Always install the welding machine as near as possible to the power point.
- Always keep the welding machine terminals and cable connections clean and tight - only use welding cables that are fully insulated throughout their entire length.
- Work on a well insulated floor wherever possible. and wear rubber insulated shoes.
- Always wear dry gloves when handling equipment that is live, e.g. when placing an electrode in a holder.
- Always get a qualified electrician to do any electrical repairs.
- Fit hazard-reducing devices (such as a device that will reduce the voltage to a low level, or a switching device that automatically switches the no-load voltage to DC) to all manual metal-arc welding machines which are used in humid conditions and/ or in category B and C environments.

- * **Category B:** steel building structures, inside pressure vessels, storage tanks, conductive confined space and general fabrication activities.
- * **Category C:** coffer dams, trenches, underground mines, in rain, in partially submerged areas, and splash zones.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

When choosing appropriate protective clothing, you should take into account protection of body parts from electric shock and burns from radiation or hot metal parts and splashes.

Welders should wear:

- a shield or helmet with a filtered lens
- fire resistant gauntlet leather gloves with internal seams to prevent stitches burning or trapping hot particles
- wool or fire-resistant canvas protective clothing that covers arms, legs and neck that also provide UV protection
- a leather apron
- leather steel-capped safety boots with leather spats
- a felt skull-cap or beret
- overalls.

Eye and face protection should:

- be non-flammable and have anti-glare sides
- ensure adequate visibility
- be equipped with a shade filter appropriate to the cutting and welding process.

Where possible, wear full helmet equipment to protect the head from falling objects, impact from protruding objects, hot or flying metal particles.

Helmets should:

- allow adequate breathing and ventilation
- be light and durable
- be constructed from non-flammable and non-conducting materials
- have a non-reflective surface.

FURTHER INFORMATION

RLX Safety System Procedure 003—Hot Work

RLX SWP 023—Welding



If you have any concerns call the safety hotline on 1800 907 312.