

A 47-year-old male was fatally injured when he was assisting in unloading quartz slabs. The victim fell from the truck and 9 quartz slabs fell onto the victim. In the process of unloading slabs, the victim would manually position a single slab so that it could be retrieved by a co-worker using a forklift with an attachment. The victim was in the process of positioning a slab and it appears he attempted to prevent the slab from falling with his hands, the victim then fell and was crushed as a result of the rapidly shifting weight causing other slabs to fall. It was learned the employer had no established written procedures for unloading of slabs.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1 Item 1 Type of Violation: Serious

TCA 50-3-105(1): The employer did not furnish to each of its employees conditions of employment and a place of employment free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious injury or harm to its employees:

In that employees were exposed to struck-by/crushing injuries from falling quartz slabs when unloading the slabs from the back of a flatbed truck; on December 30, 2024, nine quartz slabs weighing approximately 1500 per slab fell onto an employee, resulting in fatal injuries. Among other methods, one feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct this hazard would be to follow the OSHA Safety and Health Information Bulletin (SHIB 08-12-2008) on the Hazards of Transporting, Unloading, Storing, and Handling Granite, Marble, and Stone Slabs, which advises to develop and implement safe stone slab handling procedures for transporting, loading, and unloading slabs from containers and storage areas, such as using a wedge device to create a space between the slabs before attaching the clamping/lifting device and to keep the stone slabs from falling.

Proposed Penalty: \$4000.00

Citation 1 Item 2 a Type of Violation: Serious

29 CFR 1910.178(a)(4): Modifications and additions which affect capacity and safe operation were performed by the customer or user without the manufacturer's prior written approval:

In that the employer utilized an Aardwolf FB1-2720 Telescoping Forklift Boom on the forks of a Doosan G25P Forklift without the manufacturer's written approval.

Proposed Penalty: \$1050.00

Citation 1 Item 2 b Type of Violation: Serious

29 CFR 1910.178(a)(5): When the truck was equipped with front-end attachments other than factory-installed attachments, the user did not request that the truck be marked to identify the attachments and show the approximate weight of the truck and attachment combination at maximum elevation with load laterally centered:

In that the employer used an Aardwolf FB1-2720 Telescoping Forklift Boom on the forks of a Doosan G25P Forklift and did not update the data plate to reflect the load and weight requirements.

Proposed Penalty: \$0.00

Citation 1 Item 3 Type of Violation: Serious

29 CFR 1910.178(p)(1): Powered industrial truck(s) found to be in need of repair, defective, or in any way unsafe had not been taken out of service until restored to safe operating condition(s).

In that the clamp attachment on the Aardwolf FB1-2720 Telescoping Forklift Boom, used on the forks of a Doosan G25P Forklift, had a broken safety latch, exposing employees to potentially unstable loads.

Proposed Penalty: \$1050.00

Citation 2 Item 1 Type of Violation: Other-than-Serious

29 CFR 1910.178(l)(6): The employer did not certify that each operator has been trained and evaluated as required by this paragraph (l):

In that the employer had not verified through certification that operator training had been conducted for those who operated the Doosan G25P Forklift.

Proposed Penalty: \$0.00

26 Crushed —Insp #1795734 Nashville Kitchen and Bath

