

Crushed by - Inspection #1851696

A 23-year-old male was struck by an excavator bucket while both were on level ground. He became caught between the bucket and a rock box, a container for gravel at the site. The victim was crushed between these two objects.

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 employment and a place of employment which were free from recognized hazards that were causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees.

In that an employee was killed when he became pinned between the backside of an excavator bucket and a bedding box used for gravel storage; the operator indicated that he did not see the victim due to a blind spot created by the excavator's stick and bucket, but just prior to the incident, the operator should have had a clear view of the victim out of the excavator's front and left windows.

Among other methods, a feasible and acceptable abatement method to correct the hazard is to follow the Komatsu Hydraulic Excavator PC308USLC Operator Manual. The Operator Manual states that the operator should "Check for any persons or obstacles in the area around the machine" and "Before traveling, check again that there is no one in the surrounding area" and "When traveling or carrying out operations, always keep a safe distance from people, structures, or other machines to avoid coming into contact with them." An additional feasible and acceptable abatement to correct the hazard is to provide specific training to operators and ground personnel on equipment blind spots and staying out of the equipment's operational envelope.

Proposed Penalty: \$4,000

Citation 1 Item 2 Type of Violation: Serious

29 CFR 1926.602(b)(3): The employer's cranes, machines, and attachments did not comply with the safety requirements, ratios, or limitations applicable to machines or attachment usage covered in Power Crane and Shovel Association's Standards No. 1 and No. 2 of 1968, and No. 3 of 1969.

In that daily pre-operation inspections of the employer's Komatsu PC 308 USLC-3 were not carried out per PCSA No. 1-1968 and found defects were not managed appropriately; the excavator had missing mirrors on the left front, right front, and right rear that could have created a limited view to the rear and sides of the machine.

Proposed Penalty: \$1,500

