

VolkerFitzpatrick ✓	VolkerFitzpatrick-Rail ✓	VolkerRail n/a	VolkerStevin n/a	VolkerHighways n/a	VolkerLaser n/a	VolkerServices n/a
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Background

Site dumpers are involved in around one third of construction transport accidents causing many deaths and serious injuries, particularly to drivers. There have been several incidents reported recently across the construction industry relating to the use of non-cabbed dumpers.

In 2017 we made a decision to ban forward tipping dumpers over six tonnes on VolkerWessels UK sites, then from 1st August 2020 we permitted the use of Wacker Neuson Dual View Dumpers over six tonnes, with no other forward tipping dumpers over 6 tonnes being permitted.

The risk involved in operating an open cabbed dumper is considerably high as they are typically used to mount soil heaps, making it possible for the machine to overturn, additionally the use of non-cabbed dumpers exposes the operator to fatigue and discomfort due to being exposed to outside elements. Fatigue is a known major cause of accidents and incidents and is attributable in a decline in mental and / or physical performance.

In order to prevent this type of incident occurring, non-cabbed dumpers 6 tonnes and below may only be used by exception. "By exception" means, only occasional use as necessitated by site conditions such as restricted access, narrow walkways, and other specific site hazards affecting stability. Any use of non-cabbed dumpers must be subject to a suitable and sufficient site and task risk assessment, considering (as a minimum), the site route, ground conditions, operators' competence, the load and the safe condition of the plant.

Immediate action required for managers and contractors

The decision to use non-cabbed dumpers 6 tonnes and below and the contents of the risk assessment should be reviewed and approved by Operational Directors or delegated if they are unavailable e.g. on annual leave to another Operational Director in the same business unit. During use, work should be supervised and continually assessed for the ongoing effectiveness of the control measures.

It is important to consider there are alternative solutions available on the market e.g. tracked dumpers, remote controlled power loader, conveyor belt systems etc.

As well as Dumper selection, all personnel on site must be given good information as to the danger zones associated with Dumpers and Safe Systems of Work in the form of Risk Assessments and Method Statements which must include the Dumper Operations and the risk posed by being hit or struck by moving Plant.

[H09-PTR-05 Do You Know Your Safety Zones - Forward Swivel Tipping Dumper](#)

For further guidance please contact your Health and Safety Manager.

Issue no.:	2	Date:	Sep 2023	Parent document:	H09 Working with Plant		
Approved for IMS:	IMS Manager		Document owner:	CR Director	Workspace file:	n/a	Page 1 of 1