

SAFETY ALERT



Fixed ladders on Sludge Trailers and Roll on/Roll off Skips

Document No: **IW-HSQE-SA-29**

Revision: 2.00

Approved By: James Cullen

1. What Happened?

Two **fall from height incidents** have been reported to Irish Water involving a **fixed ladder on a sludge trailer**.

The most serious of these incidents was where an operative sustained a fractured heel when he fell from the third rung of the fixed ladder on the sludge trailer.

He fell to the ground landing on this heel while he was attempting to view the volume of sludge in the trailer.



2. Actions

Prohibit the use of fixed ladders on sludge trailers and roll on/roll off skips: The fixed ladder on the trailer and the roll on/roll off skips are not fit for purpose, the depth of the ladder rungs are too shallow which does not allow a reliable foot hold. Also when climbing the ladder on the sludge trailer the operative is required to climb up onto the wheel of the trailer to access the ladder.

LA to fix **“No Access Permitted”** sign to the ladder while the trailers and skips are at the WWTP’s. LA’s to ensure that site staff do not use the fixed ladder.

Use an independent safe means of access to carry out necessary visual inspections through the viewing hatch. (Example: mobile platform ladder) this alternative access must be detailed in a **safe system of work for this activity**.

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Am I SAFE?



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3. Further Information

For further information on this safety alert please contact hsqe@water.ie

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