

# SAFETY BULLETIN

AUGUST 2019

## Configuration of work baskets

This safety bulletin provides safety advice for the NSW mining industry.

### Background

Work baskets attached to integrated toolcarriers (ITs) are widely used in metalliferous mines. There are various designs used, with some having internal grab rails on one or more sides. Crush protection posts are not routinely used due to the risk of being caught up with or damaging electric cables or other services. Work baskets are often moved at low speed while attached to the IT with workers in the basket to facilitate tasks including running out and working on services, or to charge different areas of a face or blastholes.

*Figure 1 A work basket attached to an integrated toolcarrier*



## Issues

There has been a recent increase in the amount of crush injuries occurring between the edge of work baskets and services, roof or walls. All of these incidents have been associated with workers placing themselves or body parts into potential pinch point areas while the work basket is moving.

Work baskets are usually entirely painted yellow which fails to assist workers in identifying potential pinch points.

## Recommendations

Mine operators are reminded:

- Operational risk assessments must be completed for all work baskets. The risk assessment must consider:
  - crush zones and how they are identified
  - how crush zones are highlighted including by painting them in a stand-out colour such as red or applying red/white striped reflective tape
  - standardising the design of work baskets
  - designated safe places for handholds and worker position when work baskets are being manoeuvred.
- Training should clearly state where workers should stand when a work basket is being manoeuvred taking into account the visibility of workers in the work basket by the machine operator.

**NOTE:** Please ensure all relevant people in your organisation receive a copy of this safety bulletin and are informed of its content and recommendations. This safety bulletin should be processed in a systematic manner through the mine's information and communication process. It should also be placed in the mine's common area, such as your notice board where appropriate.

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