



## What to do in the event of a tip-over

### Counterbalance Forklift Trucks

In the event of a counterbalance truck tip-over:



Stay with the Truck  
– DON'T Jump



Hold on Firmly



Brace the Feet



Lean Away from the  
Point of Impact

### Management Responsibility

On counterbalance trucks, the risk of serious injury or death to an operator in the event of tip-over will be significantly reduced if they wear a seat belt and it is the responsibility of the management to ensure they do so.

### Other Truck Types

Sit-on counterbalance trucks with a rated capacity up to and including 10 tonnes, and sit-on single side-loading trucks, must be fitted with a restraint, device, or enclosure designed to address the risk of entrapment to the operator's head/body between the truck and the ground in the event of a tip-over. Typically, this will be a seat belt, and the requirement applies to all trucks irrespective of age.

For trucks over 10 tonne rated capacity, seat belts are not required if the stability characteristics of the truck are sufficient to prevent overturning, considering all the situations in which it is used.

For other truck types, principally end control and/or stand on operator position e.g. side-seated reach trucks and straddle trucks with entry to the operator station at the rear; risk assessment shows the risk of being trapped by the truck structure is low and it is better if the operator is not restrained so they can step off and away from the truck in the event of an incident.





## Common Causes of Tip-Over Incidents

- Turning too quickly, especially when unladen
- Sudden changes in speed and/or direction
- Driving with an elevated load or load carrying device
- Impact with kerb, pothole, or other object
- Impact with overhead obstruction, e.g. doorway
- Driving with a side-shifted or uncentered load
- Turning on, or traversing across, a slope or ramp
- Driving with the load downslope
- Wide loads
- Suspended (swinging) loads
- Driving off the ramp or dock edge
- Drive away, e.g. of lorry/trailer
- Manoeuvring with load raised
- Tilting the mast forward with an elevated load
- Driving on uneven surfaces
- Overloading
- Transporting large loads in strong winds
- Transporting liquids

