

## SAFE USE OF TRUCK-MOUNTED AGGREGATE SPREADER BOXES

Recommendations for the safe construction and operation of  
truck mounted aggregate spreader boxes in the spray sealing industry

### Description

The spreader box is a relatively simple type of aggregate spreader which is mounted on the rear of a tip truck. It consists of a hopper constructed of mild steel plate and fitted with a number of sliding gates which can be opened and closed together or independently by means of hand, mechanical or remote electronic, operated control levers.

### Recommendations

1. The operator and truck driver must check the spreader has been properly attached to the truck in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, and legal requirements.
2. All spreader trucks should be registered, properly maintained and fitted with at least the following in good working condition:
  - Reversing beepers

- One suitable outside mirror on each side of the truck
- Communication equipment between driver and spreader operator (a continuous and open communication link at all times is preferred).

3. All spreader trucks shall have a driver and operator trained in the safe use of all equipment associated with spreading operations.
4. A trained person designated as the "Truck Controller" shall be on site at all times during the aggregate spreading operations and shall be responsible for co-ordination of the site including the "safe speed" of vehicle on the site.

This person could also be responsible for traffic control and movement into and out of and within the work site.

*continued on reverse*



*Above: Spreader operated by truck driver; right: spreader operated from a secure platform location*



## SAFE USE OF TRUCK-MOUNTED AGGREGATE SPREADER BOXES continued

5. The truck driver and operator, before commencing spreading operations shall check that:
  - There is sufficient clearance under any power and/or telephone lines
  - The area is clear of obstructions such as tree limbs
  - Suggest that drivers and operators attend an overhead structures course similar to “Crane & Plant Electrical Safety Course” which deals with overhead power lines and hazards.
6. The driver and operator shall check for “contamination bodies” (mud, sticks, clay, large rocks, etc) during the loading of aggregate and before the commencement of spreading.

No attempt should be made to clear a blocked spreader whilst the vehicle is in motion. The energy source to the vehicle should be isolated before clearing the blockage.
7. Safe speed. This is something that can only be determined on an individual work site basis. What is safe for one site may be dangerous for another. Suggest this be part of the “truck controller” brief as discussed in item 4.
8. Where possible, it is preferable that the operator **not** be located on a rear platform. However, if the aggregate spreader box must be operated from a spreader mounted platform the following should apply:
  - Operator access to the box should only be possible whilst in full clear view of the driver.
  - The location of the operator should be on the truck driver's side, visible to the driver.
  - Control levers should be situated so that the operator doesn't have to stoop or bend.
  - The vehicle must be completely stationary before any entry or exit is attempted, with the driver being aware of these movements via a speaker system or similar device which functions properly
  - No hitch-hiking or unauthorised riding on the platform
  - Rear access must be prevented by a fence of at least 1.2 metres high, restricting access to and from the platform.
  - Access must comply as closely as possible with the requirements of AS1657 — Fixed Platforms, Walkways, Stairways and Ladders – Design and Construction.

NOTE: SRA and Legislation requirements may differ from one state to another, and local requirements should always be appraised.