




# LESSONS LEARNED / BEST PRACTICE

<b>Title:</b>	<b>2020/05 – Construction Work on Farms and Use of Concrete Slats</b>
<b>What Happened?</b>	
<p>The Health and Safety Authority issued this safety alert in 2020 following a fatal accident involving construction work on a farm.</p> <p>The following must be carefully considered in relation to concrete slats for use in agricultural sheds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cattle slats should not be subject to vehicular traffic under any circumstances.</li> <li>• Tractor slats are designed for a maximum axle load of 7.8 tonne, this loading should not be exceeded.</li> <li>• Slats should not be subjected to excessive point loading.</li> <li>• All slats should be subject to regular integrity monitoring after 10 -15 years.</li> <li>• Farmers must not enter tanks even when empty and must follow guidance on slat inspection.</li> <li>• Guidance on the design load capability of slats can be obtained from your slat supplier or a competent structural engineer.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">    </div>	
<b>Immediate Learnings / Recommendations</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where construction work is being considered on a farm, the farmer must ensure that the work is designed to be suitable for the intended purpose, is built in a safe manner and can be used and maintained in a safe manner after being built.</li> <li>• For projects that are scheduled to last more than 30 days, involve more than one contractor or involve a particular risk, it is a legal duty of the farmer (the client - the person for whom the project is being carried out) under health and safety legislation to appoint, in writing, before design work commences, a competent Project Supervisor for the Design Process (PSDP) and, before any construction work begins, a competent Project Supervisor for the Construction Stage (PSCS).</li> <li>• <b>During the Design Stage:</b> The farmer/client in conjunction with the designer and slat supplier, should consider the need for vehicular traffic to traverse slats and avoid if possible.</li> <li>• <b>During the Construction Stage:</b> The PSCS/Contractor must ensure that existing agricultural slats are not exposed to excessive loads and when installing new slats that they are manufactured in accordance with IS EN 12737 and produced in an approved certified plant.</li> </ul>	
<b>For Further Information (Optional):</b>	<a href="https://www.hsa.ie/eng/safety_alerts/2020/construction_work_on_farms_and_use_of_concrete_slats/construction_work_on_farms_and_use_of_concrete_slats.html">https://www.hsa.ie/eng/safety_alerts/2020/construction_work_on_farms_and_use_of_concrete_slats/construction_work_on_farms_and_use_of_concrete_slats.html</a>