

Title:	2026/22 -Tailgate Loading
What Happened?	
• A surfacing contractor was surfacing footpaths on a construction site. • The material was being loaded into hand wheel barrows through a 'chute', which is located in the tailgate of a typical road truck. • The body of the truck is tipped at this point. • The operative working the wheel barrow heard a loud noise and immediately jumped back. • The tailgate shot open and the remaining load in the truck emptied out, completely submersing the wheel barrow.	
Why it Happened?	
• The investigation by the subcontractor identified that the truck, which was not owned by the surfacing contractor, did not have additional bolts to standard tipping trucks but which are a feature of trucks that load wheelbarrows. • The standard fixings of the tailgate had failed under the substantial load of the tipped material.	
Immediate Learnings / Recommendations	
• If the operative had not been paying attention, they would have been crushed. • When subcontractors or anybody is off loading materials by hand wheel barrows, ensure that the tailgate of the truck is modified for this operation. • Check for a manufacturer's stated Safe Working Load (SWL) or ramp capacity and undertake pre-use checks.	