



HAZARD IDENTIFIED

This NZRMCA Safety Alert addresses the issue of concrete blowback into the truck mixer or bowl, which can be an inherently dangerous procedure unless carefully controlled.

Blowback uses high air pressure to move residual concrete from the line or boom pump back into the truck mixer or bowl. Air pressure will cause anything inside the pipe to act as a high velocity projectile.

Blowback differs from 'pumping' residual concrete back into the truck mixer or bowl. However, excessive pumping pressure may also create similar problems.

RISK 1 High air pressure and pipe movement during blowback can cause pipe joints to fail and break apart.

RISK 2 Concrete in the pipe subjected to air pressure during blowback can rebound and exit the truck mixer or bowl causing property damage or injuring bystanders.

RISK 3 Climbing a concrete truck ladder while carrying a line pump pipe is potentially dangerous.

THE NZRMCA STRONGLY ADVISES AGAINST THE PRACTICE OF BLOWBACK FROM LINE PUMPS

BLOWBACK FROM BOOM PUMPS SHOULD ONLY BE CARRIED OUT WITH APPROPRIATE HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE

RISK REDUCTION MEASURES

- The pump operator must inform the truck driver when blowback (and pump back) from a boom pump has commenced and ceases. The same applies for pumping back into the truck mixer or bowl from a line pump.
- All lines must be securely fitted.
- A suitable work platform must be provided by the pump operator prior to pumping back into the truck mixer or bowl from a line pump.
- When using high air pressure to clean the pipe, a release valve and catch basket are to be used to secure debris and sponge bung.

ONGOING ACTIONS

- Inform people working in the vicinity of blowback (and pump back) risks.
- Make this an agenda item at any safety meetings.

Some ready mix concrete suppliers do not permit blowback (or pumping back) into their trucks. Permission must be sought for such practices to be put into place.



The NZRMCA strongly advises against the practice of pressure blowback from line pumps into the truck mixer or bowl.

DISCLAIMER

The New Zealand Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NZRMCA) has developed this alert in the interests of promoting safety awareness. It is not, however, a comprehensive safety publication. Various health and safety (H&S) laws, regulations and standards may apply to the hazard, procedure or matter identified in this publication. NZRMCA has not conducted a review of applicable H&S laws and following this publication does not ensure your compliance with them. It is your responsibility to be aware of and to comply with all applicable H&S Laws. This publication is not a substitute for proper professional advice.

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