

# Marine Safety Forum – Safety Flash 08-26

**Issued: 16 July 2008**

**Subject: Forklift Handbrakes**

## **Description of the Incident:**

During routine forklift operations, the forklift operator was traveling through the warehouse when he went over a join in the concrete surface causing the handbrake to raise slightly. This in turn 'cut out' the power assisted steering causing a momentary loss of control until the brakes could be applied; the forward momentum resulted in a near miss with a fixed barrier.

The forklift was immediately quarantined and checked over by the service engineer. The result was that the 'handbrake' electric cut off was very sensitive and set to a very low tolerance, this has now been reset to a higher tolerance and the handbrake must be fully applied before the assisted steering power is cut.



## **Hazards Identified**

- Loss of forklift control – potential serious personnel injury or asset damage.

## **Actions**

- All forklift handbrakes and steering mechanisms to be checked by engineer to ensure handbrake tolerances are set correctly.
- All supervisors should ensure that the handbrake mechanism is included as part of the daily checklist and any defects reported.
- Share the learning from this incident in your respective areas in particular at toolbox talk and safety meetings.