

SAFETY BULLETIN: THIRD CHUTE EXTENSION BEYOND THE FLIP

As concrete placement project teams look for ways to improve site accessibility, the request for the use of a third extension chute, beyond the flip, often comes into play.

Past history has seen injury incidents associated with the use of too many chutes and, as such, best practice has been to limit the extension to two chutes. Upon conducting searches of industry association websites and best practice documents, most are now deferring to the mixer truck manufacturers recommendations.

Some mixer truck suppliers have affixed stickers to the flip chute to warn users of the safety hazard that is associated with mixer truck chute extensions (see photo below). But the fact remains that many mixers on the road today have seen many meters of concrete and therefore may not be safe to operate with more than two chutes beyond the flip.

Concrete Alberta's position on this subject is to follow the manufacturers' recommendations and in the absence of any, to defer to the two-chute extension limit rule. In order to maintain compliance with Part 3 Section 12D, Following Specifications of the Alberta OH&S Code, a concrete supplier's drivers should always remember to look at their chutes and associated couplings as part of their pre-trip inspection to ensure they're fit to use.

Chute inspection should also form a documented part of routine equipment maintenance and in deciding whether to continue to use more than two extension chutes as a producer's vehicles go through the wear and tear of their anticipated life cycle.

