



Blowback

Hazard Identified

Allowing concrete to be blown back into the agitator barrel is an inherently dangerous procedure unless carefully controlled. Air pressure will cause anything inside the pipeline to act as a high velocity projectile.

Risk 1

High pressure and pipe movement can cause pipe joints to fail and break apart.

Risk 2

Concrete under pressure during blowback can rebound from the rear fins and exit the barrel damaging property and injuring bystanders.

Be aware. Be alert.



Risk Reduction Measures

1. Blowback must occur via well secured fixed line to prevent “whipping”. The steel pipe must extend 600 mm past the barrel drip ring.
2. Appropriate work platforms must be provided to fit the blowback line - the pump operator is responsible for fitting the line.
3. Where blowback is permitted the truck must be legally able to hold the quantity of concrete blown back.
4. When using compressed air to clean a line, a pressure relief valve and “catch basket” are to be used.
5. The pump operator must inform the truck driver when blowback commences and is completed.

Ongoing Actions

- Inform people working in the vicinity of the blowback area about these risks.
- Make this an agenda item at safety meetings.

Some premixed concrete suppliers do not permit blowback into their trucks and written approval must be obtained from those companies that do permit blowback.

This safety flag should be read in conjunction with the CCAA Concrete Pump Safety brochure.

Disclaimer: Cement Concrete & Aggregates Australia (CCAA) has developed this brief guide in the interests of promoting safety awareness. It is not, however, a comprehensive safety publication. Various occupational health and safety laws, regulations and standards (OH&S Laws) may apply to the hazard, procedure or matter identified in this publication. CCAA has not conducted a review of applicable OH&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 OH&S Laws. This publication is not a substitute for proper professional advice.

Be aware. Be alert.

