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Talk No: 64	Title: Mobile Concrete Pumps
Discussion points: ▪ Only properly trained and certificated persons may operate a concrete pump. ▪ A competent person who has been authorized by Senior Management to carry out the training must supervise trainee operators. ▪ When reversing the truck mixer to the pump, one person must be appointed to give clear signals to the driver – all other workers must stand clear of the pump. The person signaling the truck mixer must keep his hands clear of the pump hopper and the truck mixer chute. ▪ The Hopper Safety Grill must be in the down (closed) position. ▪ When lowering the chute, care must be taken to ensure that fingers are not trapped. ▪ Should a blockage occur in the line while pumping, which requires the pipeline to be dismantled, it is essential that the pressure be released by reversing the pump action before uncoupling any part of the pipeline. ▪ Operators must ensure that non-essential personnel and members of the public are kept clear of the pump and pipeline during pumping operations. ▪ Pump operators and rig operators must establish a system of clear signals to ensure the safety of the operation – it may be necessary to have a secondary banks-man if the pump operator and rig operator cannot easily see each other. ▪ The safety of the Truck mixer and other workers on the site must be considered when setting the pump. ▪ Before each pumping operation, the following safety checks must be carried out: a) The operation of the Hopper Grill interlock cut out. b) That all pipelines and couplings are sound, free from defects and tightened, safety pins are engaged. Safety slings must be fitted at each hose connection joint. ▪ Before cleaning the pump and line, release the pressure in the line by reversing the pump action. ▪ Before working in the hopper, ensure that the safety interlock is engaged when the grill is raised. Ensure that the pump operation lever is set at neutral and cannot be accidentally moved. Unless it is absolutely essential, the engine should be switched off. ▪ <u>Personal Safety</u> a) Skin should be protected from contact with cement and concrete. b) Eyes should be protected from concrete “Blow back” at the hopper and while blowing out (cleaning) the pipeline. c) Ear protection must be worn while the pump is running. d) Safety footwear should be worn at all times.	

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- Cleaning of the pipeline must be carried out as follows:
 - a) The procedures recommended by the manufacturer should be carefully followed.
 - b) It is essential that personnel should wear protective clothing, safety helmets and eye protectors.
 - c) The placement hose (and all flexible hoses) should be removed from the pipeline before blowing out.
 - d) The pipeline should remain properly supported and anchored.
 - e) The discharge end of the pipeline should be so directed that no damage could result if concrete "shoots" out of the pipe.
 - f) The pump operator should establish effective communications with site personnel and should ensure that all personnel stand clear of the pipeline, particularly at the discharge end.
 - g) A "catch-basket" should be fitted to the discharge end of the pipeline to catch washout balls or wads, which could otherwise be expelled with great force.
 - h) Compressed air should be introduced into the pipeline through a purpose made washout adaptor. Equipped with an entry air cock and an emergency pressure release cock.
 - i) The entry air cock should be opened gently to allow a slow build up of pressure and movement of the washout balls or wads along the pipeline commences. This movement should be controlled throughout the length of the pipeline. A violent discharge should be avoided by opening the pressure release cock before the washout balls or wads are due to be discharged.

There are various discharge trap baskets available which will prevent the escape of the balls or wads, an occurrence, which could be extremely dangerous.

Notes: