



Vic crush death means record \$1m Toll fine

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Shipping operator Toll Transport has been fined a record \$1 million after a dock worker was crushed to death while loading a ship in Melbourne.

Stevedore Anthony Attard was working on the deck of the Tasmanian Achiever in May 2014 when he was crushed by a trailer used to move shipping containers.

WorkSafe's investigation found Toll's safety procedures were inadequate and the requirement to have a person watching for pedestrians on the deck was not enforced.

The 42-year-old was wearing a hi-vis vest and using earplugs on the dock while a prime mover pushed a trailer up a ramp and into position.

The driver did not see Mr Attard and ran over him, crushing him under the wheels.

"Critically, a key component of the safety procedures - that a fellow stevedore be positioned on the deck to assist with moving mats, directing the prime movers and watching for pedestrians - did not occur," WorkSafe said in a statement on Wednesday.

"There was no stevedore in position at the time of the incident."

The company pleaded guilty in the Melbourne County Court to one charge of failing to maintain a safe system of work.

The \$1 million fine handed out to Toll is the largest handed down in a Victorian court for a single health and safety offence.

"Toll deeply regrets the incident that led to the death of our co-worker and colleague Anthony Attard," Toll managing director Brian Kruger told AAP in a statement.

"We acknowledge the pain and loss this has caused to his family, friends and co-workers.

"Since this tragic incident further safety improvements have been made in our shipping operations to ensure we reduce the risk of anything like this ever happening again."

WorkSafe's health and safety executive director Marnie Williams said the fine showed how important it was for companies to keep workplaces safe.

"It was a catastrophic failure that led to a worker dying in the most horrible of circumstances, and traumatising all the people who tried so hard to save him," she said.