

La Rochelle: a worker died and one injured in the collapse of a metal walkway at the Grand Port Maritime



Socomac is a company of the Soufflet group, specialized in the port handling of cereals. © Photo credit: Romuald Augé / SO

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A serious accident occurred this Friday afternoon, March 6, in the Grand Port Maritime of La Rochelle, in La Pallice. A metal walkway collapsed. One worker has died, another is in serious condition

This Friday, March 6, in the Port Atlantique of La Rochelle, in La Pallice, a major accident occurred around 1 p.m. A metal walkway of the cereal company Socomac – belonging to the Soufflet agri-food group – collapsed. A 60-year-old worker has died. Another, born in 2001, was seriously injured and

rushed to the Poitiers University Hospital, confirms the La Rochelle prosecutor's office.

The circumstances of the accident still remain to be clarified, an investigation for homicide and injuries has been opened. The Labour Inspectorate went to the site. According to Sophie Debas, deputy prosecutor, "it is a freight transport mat that would have collapsed on the metal walkway". The latter - on which the two workers affected were probably - would have collapsed in turn.

Three deaths in six years

An important device was deployed, 25 firefighters were engaged accompanied by five rescue vehicles. In addition to taking care of the victims, they secured the accident area. A psychological support unit has been set up at the Maison du port, for the colleagues of the victims and witnesses of the accident.



The accident took place within the Socomac company, housed in the Port of La Pallice. Xavier Léoty/SO

The mayor of La Rochelle, Thibaut Guiraud, visited the site. "In these particularly difficult times, my thoughts go above all to the family, the relatives of the victim and all his colleagues," he said on social networks.

As a reminder, several fatal accidents have mourned the Grand Port maritime in recent years. In October 2023, an agent in charge of cleaning a silo died from a 50-meter fall on the Sica Atlantique site. In April 2020, another young man - Jocelyn Gilly - died, crushed by a machine.