

# SAFETY ALERT

## 362 – Dropped object due to failed packaging

### Background

An Energy and Resources Store Worker lifted a cardboard-wrapped package containing a roller pin (~49 kg) located in a client site warehouse on shelving. During the lift, the packaging failed, causing the item to fall onto the worker’s foot, resulting in a fracture.



### Key Risk

Dropped object risk from items not being stored or packaged in a way that allows safe handling.

### Investigation Findings

- Cardboard packaging was **degraded, crushed, and torn**
- Load was **not contained in a rigid structure** (crate/pallet/stillage)
- Plastic strapping gives a **false sense that the item is “secured”**
- Weight of the item was not identified on the packaging nor considered / assessed prior to lifting
- Heavy, dense steel pin relying on **packaging for lifting**
- A potential hazard was created when the item was left on a shelf by other workers

### RECOMMENDED WAYS TO CONTROL RISK

- Treat Packaging as Non-Load Bearing
  - Do not rely on cardboard or wrapping to lift or support weight
  - Assess the **actual load**, not just the packaging
- Conduct a Pre-Lift Check
 

**STOP WORK** if any of the following are present:

  - Torn, crushed, or soft packaging
  - Exposed or shifting contents
  - No rigid support structure
  - Weight unknown or appears excessive
- Use the Correct Handling Method
- Ensure Fit-for-Purpose Storage
  - Store in rigid containers, crates, or on pallets
  - Secure to prevent movement
  - Ensure labelling (weight)
- If Packaging is Not Secure
  - **Stop work immediately**
  - Do not attempt to lift or “make do”
  - Repackage using suitable materials or escalate to supervisor/stores

If you can’t trust the packaging — don’t trust the lift.

For more information contact: [safety@programmed.com.au](mailto:safety@programmed.com.au)

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Report all incidents and near misses

Please display on Safety Noticeboards and raise this matter at the next Toolbox Talk or Safety Meeting.