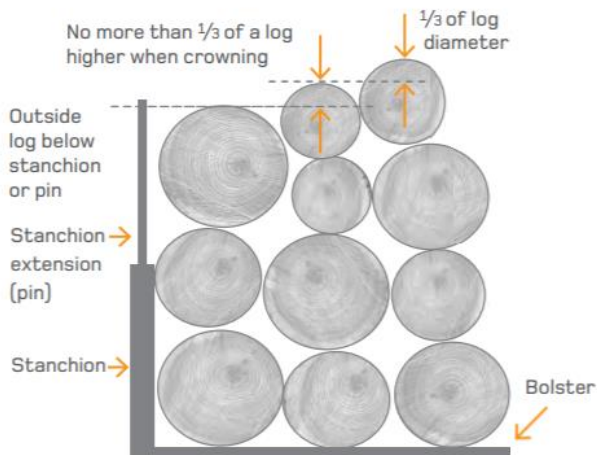


Extension Pins and Log Load Securing Requirements



The **ACOP** at **16.5.1** states:

- No part of the **outside** logs of the load shall be loaded above the top of the stanchions or the stanchion extensions.
- Logs loaded in the middle of the load **shall not have more than 1/3 of the diameter** of the log above the adjacent logs.
- The top of the load shall be rounded so that the load-securing device will contact as many logs as possible – see log loading graphic.

In reference to unloading the **ACOP** at **16.7.1** states that ... “stanchion pins and extensions shall not be removed/lowered until the load has been lowered to a point where no part of any log is above the height of the top of the stanchion.”

NOGGIN INC2682 10/08/20 – Medical Treatment Injury.

Description – while unchaining the load a driver released the tension on the chains before proceeding to the passenger side of the trailer to hang them up. CCTV footage shows the driver stowing the chain at bolster 4 before moving forward to bolster 3 when the top-log (as pictured) rolled off the bunk. It struck the driver on the shoulder and side of the head, causing minor cuts and heavy bruising.

NOTE: The image is taken as the truck arrives at the Port, as captured by security camera. The extension pin is visible on bolster 4 but not visible on bolster 3, however it was not lowered by the driver. The log that fell is the top-most log pictured in the image. As situated, it is sitting on top of the ‘outside log’ – please compare with the log loading graphic.



5Why Points to Engineering Controls

The truck was fitted with Patchell bolsters, specifically engineered and time proven. However, the investigation revealed that the extension pins were retrofitted by the original owner of the vehicle, and someone other than Patchells. **Incorrect installation** has allowed the pin to extend beyond its design limit and therefore not lock into place correctly. It has subsequently dropped down into the bolster, at some time during transit.

Investigation – Some Key findings...

The Patchell ‘extension pin design is robust and sturdy and will perform as intended if fitted according to the manufacturer’s plans – this one was not!

- **Experienced drivers** tell us that using an incorrectly fitted pin, such as the one in this incident, would give a sense (feel) of having the ‘wrong key in the lock’.
- Logs must be loaded according to the **ACOP standards** – no exceptions. Carting a lighter species of logs e.g. Douglas Fir, is not an excuse for overloading or poor loading.



Managing Risk – Please Consider!

1. When using new or used equipment both Owners and Operators have duties to ensure that devices are properly installed, can activate or lock-out correctly, and be used safely.
2. PCBU’s that design, manufacture, import, supply and install plant, substances, or structures must ensure such are safe to use and fit for purpose – [HSW Act 2015 s. 36–43](#).
3. Immediately report faulty equipment taking it out of service until corrected or repaired.
4. Use this alert as an occasion to review all safety devices **especially on extension pins**.