

General Workplace Inspectorate

Promoting Safety and Health in the Workplace

ACCIDENT/INCIDENT ALERT

21 November 2001

Escalators in Shopping Malls and Similar Situations

A recent accident in Australia resulted from the positioning of a planter box against the barrier next to the top end of a down escalator.

A young child climbed onto the edge of the planter box, grasped the black moving handrail of the escalator and was dragged over the barrier to fall four storeys to the floor below.

Please be aware of this situation.

It needn't be a planter box which creates a hazardous situation, it could be advertising material or anything.

Any such objects placed adjacent to a barrier reduce the effectiveness of the barrier.

