highways england

ACTION

Safety Alert

Safe Use Of Trailers

1 April 2021

Background information

Following two recent incidents on our network involving trailers, decoupling in transit, we have developed this safety alert with the aim of preventing further recurrence and improving our learning from incidents across our Supply Chain.
The below summarises the management arrangements required to be in place whilst using and operating trailers. We ask you to review your existing arrangements and systems of work in relation to the points described below:

Inspection, maintenance and roadworthiness

- Ensure robust management arrangements are in place to manage the safe use of trailers.
- Ensure each and every trailer has been subject to a robust inspection regime carried out by trained and competent operatives.
- Ensure that pre-use checks are carried out and documented including when driver change over occurs.
- Ensure that when coupling onto a vehicle that the vehicle hitch arrangement has been inspected and maintained.
- Ensure maintenance records are in place and kept up to date for each and every operational trailer.
- Ensure the following items are fully operational; braking systems, couplings including secondary coupling devices - all cables and chains, electrical systems including all lighting, tyres are legal and in good roadworthy condition.

Safe Use

- Ensure robust rationale and RAMS for use of trailers – could we transport plant / equipment in another way?

- Ensure that weight limits for the trailer are identified and operatives are fully aware what they are.
- Ensure that coupling devices are used as per manufacturers instructions and secondary coupling devices (chains, break away cables) are used at all times.
- Ensure the correct trailer is used for the correct item of plant or equipment.
- Ensure that plant and equipment being transported is secured correctly to the trailer.

People

- Embed robust controls to ensure only trained competent operatives use trailers.
- Ensure adequate supervision is in place to manage use of trailers.
- Ensure all users are fully trained and competent for the particular type of trailer they are using.

Safe loading / unloading

- Use exclusion zone around trailers whilst loading/off loading and ensure firm level ground is used.

If you have any queries about this safety alert information announcement or any other safety announcement then please contact **Andrew.Stagg@highwaysengland.co.uk**

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home safe and well