



# Safety Alert

## Trailer Rolling off Low-loader

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by Highways England's supply chain partner:

**Taylor Woodrow**

# Trailer Rolling off Low-loader

Photo below shows the resting position of the Trailer after impact with the parked site van.



Photo below shows the Low-loader which the Trailer rolled off once disconnected from the tractor



Photo below shows the full length of the Trailer and the Tractor that it was disconnected from whilst on the Low-loader.



## Immediate Actions

- The incident was reported to site management who made the scene safe and initiated the investigation process.
- Any activities involving the delivery or collection of plant were ceased until the site process for managing this type of activity was reviewed and re-briefed to all concerned.

## Introduction

On the 07/02/19, a Low-loader company was contracted by administrators to recover plant, in this case a Tractor and Trailer. The Principal Contactor had received collection notification on the 06/02/19 but only for collection of the Trailer.

The Tractor Operator manoeuvred the Tractor and Trailer onto the Low-loader under the guidance of the Low-loader Driver. It became apparent that the trailer was over-hanging, so to create more space the trailer was disconnected from the hydraulic tractor brakes and the tractor hook by the low loader driver.

At this point, due to the back of the trailer being situated on the lower part of the low-loader ramp the weight transferred lifting the trailer draw bar ring off the hook resulting in the trailer rolling off the ramp onto the access road and into a parked van approx. 30ft. behind, causing damage to the bumper, bonnet and light of the van.

## Alert Details

- There was an assumption made by the Tractor Operator that when the hydraulic brake hose was disconnected from the Tractor, it would engage the Trailer brakes.
- The manual brake handle wasn't identified during the Operators pre-use checks on the Trailer during the pre-use visual inspection.
- Lack of clear process for undertaking reasonable checks before Low-loader operations commenced.
- The Low-loader was not long enough to hold the Tractor and the Trailer whilst connected.
- The Operator did not hold a Load and Secure competency card.