



# Safety Alert

## Lighting Column Falling from Lorry Loader

17<sup>th</sup> April 2019

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

**J McCann & Co Limited**

## Lighting Column Falling from Lorry Loader

## SAFETY ALERT

April 2019

### Incidents:

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2019, an aluminium lighting column rolled off the top of the Lorry Loader installation lorry after a column had been installed as the load was being secured for transport to the next location.

On the night shift on the 28th March 2019 a lorry loader operated by two McCann operatives loaded a pack of 9 (3x3) SAPA 12.9 metre aluminium flanged based columns on to the H frame of a McCann owned lorry loader at BMV Storage Compound Beneath the north side of the M6 Motorway carriageway at Junction 9.

The lorry was driven out to site and positioned at the first column location. The operatives released the ratchet straps holding the pack down to the lorry then cut the banding holding the pack of 9 columns together.



The first column, top of the 3x3 pack towards the centre of the lorry, was slung and lifted off the pack in accordance with the approved lift plan. Once clear of the pack the operatives re-secured the remaining lighting columns to the lorry with the ratchet straps. As the ratchet was being tightened at the side of the lorry, the top outside column rolled from the pack, hitting the IP on the soft tissue of their left thigh.

### Outcomes:

The H frame fitted to the lorry loader is purposely designed to carry lighting columns longer than the lorry bed, and the arms of the H frame prevent loaded columns from rolling off the sides of the lorry. This is only effective whilst the columns are retained within the H frame and are not stacked above the arms of the H frame.

The columns were loaded onto the lorry loader as packaged by the manufacturer, whilst it was initially loaded safely and retained by the H frame, no consideration was made for the columns becoming separate elements after the banding around the column pack was cut.

This led to single columns being accidentally stacked above the H frame and being able to fall.

### The following Procedure has been put in place:

- 3x3 packs of columns will be split on the floor before being taken out to site.

The banding of the pack will be cut and re-banded using a banding machine in to a block of 3x2 and the top row of columns removed one at a time using a sling and the lorry loader crane and placed on to the offside of the lorry loader bed.

- The pack will then be lifted on to the bed of the lorry loader using the lorry loader crane and placed on the nearside of the bed and secured for transit against the nearest vertical bar of the H frame using two ratchet straps.
- All our column and post suppliers have been contacted and instructed that delivered packs of columns and posts are not to be more than 500mm high to ensure the height of the pack, does not exceed the vertical height of the retaining H frame.

A safety alert will be circulated to share the incident learning