



Safety Alert

Fall from Height (Failed side impact bar on cone well)

13 August 2019

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

Kier

SHE ALERT

SHE H137 A 19
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Fall from Height (Failed side impact bar on cone well)

In the early hours of 2nd August, a Highways Maintenance Operative (HMO) fell from the cone well of an 18-tonne traffic management vehicle (TMV) whilst lifting cones from a lane closure. Initial investigation showed that the securing lug on the side impact protection rail had failed however the spring-loaded fall prevention bar was also not in place. Fortunately, the HMO only received minor injuries.

An investigation found that the hole drilled in the aluminium rail had widened due to metal fatigue and corrosion, leading to the fixing failing. The side impact protection rail is designed to protect against an inward pushing force such as an errant vehicle striking the side of the vehicle. It is not designed to withstand a force pushing outwards such as an operative leaning against it.



Failed Side Impact Protection Bar.



Failed securing lug / Corrosion.



Both bars when fitted.

Action required:

- All TM Vehicles have to be inspected to check the condition of the securing lug on the impact protection rails and any deterioration found reported must be reported for repair

Remember:

- Users of TMVs fitted with the spring-loaded fall prevention bars must ensure they are in place when installing or removing traffic management. Do not rely on the side impact bars for fall prevention.
- Driver's shall ensure that the vehicle defect check is thoroughly completed and that fall prevention systems are available in addition to the side impact bars. Across the fleet, these may be part of the side impact bars, spring-loaded fall prevention bars, sliding bars or chains.
- Consider housekeeping to ensure the cone well and working platform are free from trip hazards and work to your method statement/Safe system of work at all times.

Always remember the 5 SHE Basics:

1. Induction - For every worker
2. Risk Assessment - For every task
3. Safe System of Work - For every medium and high-risk task
4. Point of Work Risk Assessment - The last chance to re-assess
5. Competence - Our license to operate