



Safety Alert

Lower Thames Crossing Pre-Enabling Works

29 April 2020

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

Balfour Beatty

Safety Alert

Towable Equipment

March 2020

On Friday 6th March 2020 an 'A' Plant trailer mounted lighting tower was being towed, using a Toyota Hilux 4x4, on the Lower Thames Crossing project when the near side wheel became detached causing the trailer to tip on its offside.

The vehicle and trailer had travelled approximately 100m along a carriageway, open to the public, after leaving the site compound.

The trailer was fitted with yellow wheel stud indicators, a pre delivery inspection implied that the wheel studs were torqued to 110Nm

Root cause of the incident.

- The wheel studs were loose, which was not identified by the driver during his visual inspection



Wheel stud with 50% of thread damaged

Underlying causes.

- A fitter visited site a week before and identified that the wheel nuts were loose and did not tighten them.
- The quality of the walk round visual inspection was inadequate
- The driver did not have the tools to physically check the wheel stud torque settings

Learning.

- Periodically assess individuals carrying out vehicle/trailer checks.
- Ensure that the correct tools are available to carry out physical checks of wheel stud torque settings
- Ensure thorough delivery inspections take place on receipt of equipment/plant

- Coloured wheel stud indicator alignment should not be used as sole confirmation that the wheel studs are all securely held in place.
- Checking wheels studs for the correct torque settings is critical to the safety of the equipment when towed.
- As a result, a more detailed trailer pre-start checklist has been introduced across Balfour Beatty.



Lighting tower after the incident