



# Safety Alert

## High Potential – Roller Incident

20 July 2020

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

**Tarmac**

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>High Potential – Roller Incident</b>	<b>Date: 30/06/20</b>
<b>DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>All Contracting Business Units</b>	<b>REFERENCE: ALE-H&amp;S-269-300620-V02</b>

**A high-potential incident occurred on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June when a Bomag 161 roller almost collided with two paver operatives.**

The BM161 roller was in operation and had compacted the longitudinal joint on the first rip of material and was reversing into position ready to compact the cross joint once the paver had moved off. The roller however did not stop but accelerated impacting into the side arm of the paver narrowly missing two operatives standing at the side of the paver. This incident had potentially life-threatening consequences, fortunately no one was harmed.

## Findings

- The seat position of the roller had been rotated allowing the driver to face the direction of travel whilst travelling in reverse. This can increase the risk of driver disorientation whereby the acceleration lever is pulled in the wrong direction.
- Break-times were not mandated and there were no defined timescales of which mobile plant operators should take breaks.

## Actions

- **Operators** - Reversing in any item of plant should either be avoided or kept to a minimum. When travelling from one location to another and wherever possible rollers should travel forwards with the operator's seat locked into the forward facing position. When working the seat can be rotated and locked into a position that is comfortable and affords greatest visibility, in accordance with the manufacturers instructions. The seat should only be adjusted when the plant is stationary.
- **Regional Plant Managers and Operatives** – Must ensure all plant is supplied to Tarmac's minimum specification which includes carrying out a 1 meter all-round visibility check and 5 plus 2 lighting.
- **Supervisors and Foremen** – Must enforce all site rules which involves ensuring adequate rest breaks are provided for any work activity. The Working Time Regulations 1998 state that all workers who are required to work more than six hours must take an uninterrupted rest period of a minimum of 20 minutes.
- **Mobile plant operators must not work continuously for more than 4.5 hours without an uninterrupted 30min break.**

