



Safety Alert

Infrastructure: Failed Retaining Strap

21 October 2020

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

Morgan Sindall

Failed Retaining Strap (Walking Floor)

What happened?

A subcontractor vehicle delivered sand to the Dorset Visual Impact Provision project site. The sand was unloaded using a ‘moving floor and plough’ mechanism. The plough ‘sweeps’ the floor as the load is discharged.

Upon completion of the unloading the driver moved his vehicle away to allow access for the next vehicle. After brushing off residual sand around the sill of the tailgate, to ensure correct closure of the tailgate, the driver returned to the front of the trailer to operate the plough retraction and to close the tailgate.

While at the front of the vehicle, and prior to operating the reset of the mechanism the driver heard a loud ‘bang’ at the rear. He noted that the plough retraction mechanism strap had severed allowing the plough to become detached from the trailer.

The webbed retaining strap had failed due to excessive wear and tear during normal usage.

A secondary means of retention, Plough ‘Stop-blocks’, normally fitted at the rear of the trailer, had been omitted at time of fabrication.

Learning

Human error – the newbuilt trailer was not checked sufficiently and was allowed to leave the manufacturer without the stop-blocks being installed.

Poor maintenance planning – the stop-blocks and the retaining strap are not part of routine inspection checks by the driver.



This advice should be used, where the above is applicable, and the information discussed with your team highlighting the following points:

Actions to prevent reoccurrence

- **Mandatory** – all trailers of this type, both current and future to have secondary means of plough retention fitted
- **Maintenance checks** – stop-blocks to be included in drivers daily safety check. Any defect to be treated as safety related and the trailer prevented from being used until defect is rectified.

SHEQ Alert date:	10/2020		Display until:	31/01/2021				
Distribution:	Morgan Sindall	x	Supply Chain	x	Plant Hire Desk	Morgan Sindall Group		
Communication:	Toolbox talks / briefings		x	Noticeboards		x	SHEQ update	x

Everyone has the right to be

100% Safe