

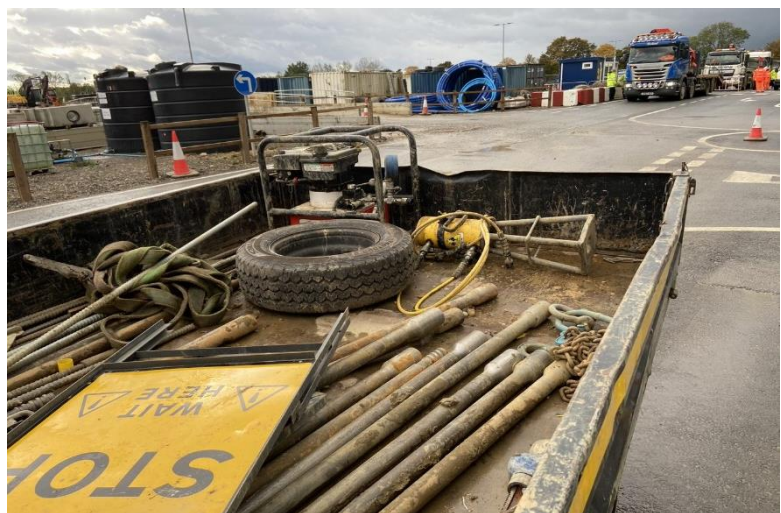
Safety Alert

Vehicle Compliance Checks

26 November 2020

Background information

- In September 2020 Highways England commenced a programme of compliance checks on vehicles and drivers working on our construction schemes across the country. The checks are intended to provide assurance that vehicles and drivers in our supply chain are safe and legal.
- Each compliance check is run in collaboration with the principal contractor. The vehicle and driver checks are conducted by Warwickshire Police by stopping vehicles for examination at the scheme compound. The focus is on education, rectification and data gathering, rather than prosecution. However, the police reserve the right to take formal enforcement action for serious issues.



Findings

- So far, compliance checks have been completed on 3 separate sites. A total of 279 vehicles have been examined. The checks are predominantly on vans and trucks, but some cars, both private and company, have been checked as well.
- We are extremely concerned that 110 vehicles (39%) were found to be non-compliant (illegal) in some way. A broad range of issues were recorded, but there were clear trends with some issues being found repeatedly. Police were requested to apply a 'light touch' in issuing penalties but still issued a number of penalty notices and prohibitions to the most serious issues.



Trends

- The issues identified were categorised as follows:

Critical: e.g. no 'O' licence (HGV) / tacho fraud (HGV) / no driving licence or wrong entitlement

Neglect: items that should have been identified as needing attention over a period of time, e.g. worn tyres

Concern: e.g. insecure load / overload / damaged tyres / faulty lights

- These categories aren't intended to say how serious the issue is. They all relate to something that makes use of that vehicle illegal. They do, however, give an indication of the root cause and how similar incidents can be avoided.
- There is a considerable concern around the performance of our Tier 2 & 3 contractors against this criteria.
- Of the 156 Tier 2 & 3 contractors vehicles checked, 69 (44%) were found to have at least 1 issue. 21 (13%) of these vehicles had multiple issues. These can be further broken down as shown below:

	Critical	Neglect	Concern	Total
LGV [van]	19	57	16	92
HGV	9	8	15	32
Total	28	65	31	124

- Operating companies have been contacted directly by Highways England about issues with their own vehicles to take remedial action.

Tier 1 contractors have been directly issued with a 'For Action' Safety Alert (HEI195 issued 13 November 2020) in relation to the issues identified during these vehicle checks.

Please take this safety alert as reminder of the following points:

- Work related road risk **must** be given the same level of importance as any other aspect of health, safety and wellbeing.
- Appropriate policies and procedures relating to managing Work Related Road Risk (WRRR) **must** be fully embedded in your health and safety management system.
- These policies **must** ensure that all HGVs operated directly and by contractors hold the relevant operator's licence and meet, as a minimum, the undertakings of that licence and all other applicable legislation.
- These policies **must** also apply to any other vehicles (cars and vans) operated directly and by contractors to ensure:
 - Drivers are:
 - Qualified, competent and fit to drive the vehicle provided,
 - Aware of their obligation to abide by applicable legislation relating to, but not limited to, speed, drivers' hours, safe & legal loading, use of mobile phones and towing,
 - Vehicles are:
 - Roadworthy and maintained to at least the manufacturer guidelines,
 - Safe and legally loaded.

[Driving for Better Business](#) has many resources available to contractors to support these requirements.