

27th February
2014

Safety Memo

Unhitching Articulated Trailers

A recent incident occurred in Area 10 where an articulated lorry driver failed to follow the correct process when unhitching the trailer from the tractor unit.

If any trailers have to be unhitched the following briefing must be given to the driver to ensure he/ she knows how to carry out the operation safely.

The briefing must be recorded in the yellow "Briefing book" and held on file.

Please ensure this is carried out every time a trailer is unhitched on site or within the depot.

The procedure for unhitching a trailer –

- Drive into the compound observing the site speed limit
- Reverse into parking space with the aid of a banksman/ vehicle marshal
- Driver and Banksman/ vehicle marshal must communicate with each other as to how the reversing will take place. What hand signals will be used so both are aware of the sign to reverse and stop
- When the unit is stopped the driver must apply handbrake and neutral gear applied
- It is the Drivers responsibility to carry out the procedure for unhitching the trailer
- Apply parking brake to trailer and chock rear wheels of trailer to stop moving backwards
- Wind legs down until lowered to floor
- Uncouple all air lines and electric lines
- Pull 5th wheel pin to release trailer from tractor unit
- Drive tractor unit slowly away from trailer until it is completely away from the trailer

This procedure must be repeated every time a trailer is to be unhitched to prevent a reoccurrence of this type of incident.

Dave Reeves
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Circulation: Senior Management Team, Area Managers, Supply Chain Manager, SA Distribution List, Zero Harm Champion, H&S Co-ordinator

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ZEROHARM
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