

Reducing the risk of transport related incidents in the workplace

In the UK, there are more than 5000 incidents involving transport in the workplace every year, some of which may be fatal.

This has recently been highlighted in the Immingham Docks court case where three companies have been fined after a security guard was fatally injured when he was struck by an articulated vehicle.

HSE inspector, Carole Downes, stated after the hearing that the *"HSE found inadequate consultation between parties and no assessment of the risks to the segregation of vehicles and pedestrians. A properly implemented transport risk assessment should have identified sufficient measures to separate people and vehicles, and provide safe facilities."*

What an employer must consider

- Incidents peak during loading and unloading
- Vehicle suitability and maintenance is a key factor in ensuring operations can be conducted safely
- Operators, as well as drivers of goods and passenger vehicles are required to be licensed and there are strict requirements on drivers' hours

Recommendations

- Risk assessments should consider possible conditions at each type of collection or delivery point
- It is important that clear speed limits be set, taking into account the ground conditions and working environment. Speed limits may need to be reduced in areas where there is greater interaction with pedestrians
- Ensure safe processes are devised, communicated and staff are trained in them as a result of these risk assessments, including procedures to avoid pulling away incidents whilst loading
- Record and investigate accidents and near misses, as well as examining trends
- Ensure vehicles used (including private vehicles) are suitable for the task and not overloaded
- Ensure that loads are prepared adequately for loading, transport and unloading
- Monitor the safety of drivers and loading and unloading personnel
- Ensure there are strict controls on monitoring driver hours, licensing and competence
- Ensure that drivers are adequately trained and prepared for emergency situations and bad weather
- Ensure that there is a rigorous and recorded system of vehicle maintenance
- Ensure there are controls on the consignment and transport of hazardous goods



To find out more about how 4see can help you to reduce your risk of transport related incidents in the workplace, please call us on 01327 811166 or visit our website at www.4see.co.uk/.

