



# Safety Alert

## Lorry loader stabilisers

25 October 2021

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

**Skanska**

# Lorry loader stabilisers



Incident  
notification



Alert



Information



Toolbox Talk



## Why

### are we doing this talk?

An individual has lost his life following an incident on a Skanska UK project site in Bristol on 17 September.

A delivery driver was preparing to leave site having offloaded a storage unit when he became trapped by one of the lorry's stabiliser legs. Those on site sought to free him and alerted emergency services, but he sustained very serious injuries and sadly passed away in hospital.

## How

### can it affect us?

This tragic event occurred during the retraction of the stabiliser legs on a lorry loader. Logistics, especially lifting, loading, and lowering is a significant risk area to our people involved in the activities around those operations.

The deceased had delivered and offloaded a storage cabin with his lorry mounted crane. He had successfully stowed away his crane and was in the process of stowing away the vehicle stabilisers. The vehicle stabilisers legs are vertical (foot down) when deployed and vertical (foot up) when stowed. At the time of the event the stabiliser leg was in a horizontal position as the stabiliser extension was retracted. The horizontally positioned stabiliser leg crushed the deceased against the vehicle bed as it was retracted.

The risk of crushing injuries is increased when hydraulically operated tilting stabilisers are used. The risk of injury is further increased if the tilting leg can be drawn in towards the position where the operator is operating the controls.

## What

### do we need to do?

When receiving a lorry loader on site the responsible person either from Skanska or the trade contractor must:

1. Ask the operator to describe the safe operation when deploying and retracting stabilisers, including the position they stand in when operating the stabilisers.
2. Check the operator has the correct competency card for the vehicle lorry loader and has received familiarisation training for its operation.
3. Identify the type of stabiliser on the vehicle.
  - Manual non-tilting – allow to proceed
  - Hydraulic non-tilting – allow to proceed
  - Manual tilting, hydraulic deployment, and retraction – allow to proceed but supervise the operation
  - Hydraulic tilting, deployment, and retraction (**HOLD: Follow the steps below for this specific type**)
4. Ask to see the operator's manual.
5. Find out if the stabilisers are operated from fixed positions or via remote.
6. Understand where the operator will be positioned as the stabiliser legs tilt (rotate) and is this a place of safety i.e., does the leg rotate towards or away from the operator?
7. Observe/supervise the whole activity including the setting up and de-rigging.
  - The operator must observe the extension and tilting leg at all times when it is being operated.
  - Simultaneous deployment/retraction of stabiliser extensions and tilting legs is not permitted under any circumstances.

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The images below show a part of the safe operation of the nearside stabiliser legs:



If you are unsure do not allow the activity to proceed and seek further guidance Lifting AP, HSW Manager or both.

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## Q&A

What did we understand?

How can lorry loader stabilisers affect those operating or working near them?

How can we identify the type of stabiliser on the lorry loader?

Once we know stabilisers are hydraulically operated tilting, deployment, and retracting type, what is the first question we should ask?

What should you do if you are unsure about an activity and its safe operation on site?

For more detailed information on the safe operation of Hydraulic tilting, deployment and retraction stabilisers [download the briefing pack here:](#)



Scan the QR code with your Skanska smartphone or tablet and see the presentation online in our [How to Guides Hub](#) on the Lifting Page:

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