

Driver Injury From Faulty Roof Support

What Happened:

On 28 July at 19.30 pm a driver was replacing a trailer roof support in position after the trailer had been loaded at customer site. He had inserted the post and pushed the locking arm up into position. As he started to turn away from the trailer the locking arm sprung out suddenly and struck the driver hard on the top left side of his head. The driver was knocked unconscious for approximately 5-7 minutes before being discovered by the customer staff, and medical assistance was given.

The driver was taken by ambulance to the local Hospital and kept in overnight. He was released the next afternoon.



Findings:

- The driver was following the procedure correctly
- The driver was wearing the correct PPE for the site
- The roof support locking arm safety catch was faulty and failed

Recommendations:

Drivers and hauliers must:-

- ✓ Check and inspect trailer roof supports carefully and ensure the retaining bolts, safety catches and rollers are in place and working correctly.
- ✓ Ensure all trailers are in a condition that is fit for loading and safe for all persons who may come handle the trailer.
- ✓ If a changeover trailer is found have a defect **do not leave it at the site to be "somebody else's problem"**, report it to your manager immediately for a repair to be arranged.
- ✓ Ensure roof supports and moving parts are inspected regularly and included in service and maintenance regimes.
- ✓ Have a robust defect reporting and maintenance regime in place, and ensure drivers and operational staff follow it.

Further information regarding P&O Ferrymasters standards and procedures can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.poferrymasters.com/carrierinfo/health-and-safety/operational-standards/>