

## Driver Injured While Preparing Trailer

### What Happened:

On 31<sup>st</sup> August a driver was prepping a trailer for loading that had been left incorrectly prepared by the previous driver.

The driver was securing the curtains back as per the site and safety requirements, and used the trailers internal straps. As he walked around the rear of the trailer pulling the strap, the strap suddenly gave way and broke. This caused the driver to fall and he landed heavily on his left shoulder.

Driver has sustained muscle tenderness and stiffness but continued with his duties.



### Findings:

- The driver was following the procedure correctly
- The driver was wearing the correct PPE for the site
- The trailer had not been left correctly prepared by the previous driver
- The trailers internal straps are not part of the load securing process and therefore not routinely inspected by the owning haulier.

### Recommendations:

#### **Drivers and hauliers must:-**

- ✓ When leaving empty trailers on the customer site, drivers must ensure they have prepared them correctly according to the site procedure.
- ✓ When preparing curtain sided trailers **always** use a single webbing strap with the ratchet secured on the back doors

#### **DO NOT USE!**

- × Internal straps fitted to a central roof runner or bungee to secure curtains back.
- × Curtain buckles to secure curtains back
- × Trailer side gates or side boards to secure curtains back