

## Interim Bulletin

# Injury from Defective Trailer Door

### What Happened:

Meet & Greet Inspector was completing the usual trailer and equipment checks prior to loading. The trailer is of a type where the doors have two operating handles on each door. The handles were stiff so he opened them one at a time, the first handle opening easily. He used his left hand to grasp the second handle and his right hand index finger to push the button inwards to release the door handle. The button was at first stiff and then released suddenly. His finger slid into the gap where the button was and his finger was caught and crushed. The Inspector received first aid on site and went to hospital, where he was treated. The hospital confirmed his top index finger was broken and sustained a severe laceration which required 5 stitches. He was sent home after treatment with medication.



An full investigation is underway, a follow up bulletin will be issued on completion.

### Interim Recommendations:

Drivers and Hauliers should:-

- ✓ Always wear safety gloves when opening and closing trailers doors
- ✓ Trailer door handles and catches should open without undue pressure. Always report as a defect trailer door handles and catches that will not open by hand.
- ✓ Never use improvised objects such as screwdrivers or timbers to force a door catch and handle to open.
- ✓ Ensure drivers actively report all defects they find on trailers for repair