

Risk Assessment

RA039 Risk Assessment – Coupling, Uncoupling & Towing Trailers



ABI Equipment Ltd	Creation Date: 30/06/2021
Coupling, Uncoupling & Towing Trailers	

Main Hazards are:	
Instability due to weight limits exceeded	Trailer becoming uncoupled during journey
Loss of control and hitting persons and property	Load falling from trailer during journey
Mechanical failure	Trailer fishtailing
Persons / Property affected	
All Employees	General Public
All visitors	

Assessment of Risk:	Severity	5	X	Likelihood	4	= Risk	20
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Control Measures already in Place	PPE Required
1. All drivers to have a full knowledge & understanding of the highway code and UK traffic rules for towing a trailer	Safety helmets <input type="checkbox"/>
2. The trailer is used infrequently for specific tasks only – e.g. taking scrap to St James, Northampton (10 mile round trip)	Hi-Vis Jackets <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. All drivers to drive within the speed limit both on site and on UK roads	Safety footwear <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Plan ahead by looking ahead for traffic slowing, reading signposts and road marking to ensure you are in the correct position for your maneuver.	Eye protection <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Always using Mirror, Signal and Manoeuvre before starting, stopping and changing lanes and direction. Give clear signals well before maneuvering the vehicle but not too early as to cause confusion.	Dust masks <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Never make any sudden movements, changes of lane or changes in direction. Mirrors and signals to be used at all times when turning corners or changing lanes.	Ear plugs <input type="checkbox"/>
7. Reversing should be avoided/kept to a minimum.	Earmuffs <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Always reverse slowly, being prepared to stop immediately	Gloves <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9. If necessary, get out of your vehicle to check the area prior to reversing or use a second person to guide you.	Protective overalls <input type="checkbox"/>
10. Extra care should be taken when turning left to ensure there are no pedestrians, cyclists or other road users in the blind spot. Including looking over shoulder, allowing sufficient space	Gauntlets <input type="checkbox"/>
11. The trailer should be inspected before each use. Including tyres, lights, number plate	Harnesses <input type="checkbox"/>
12. The coupling should be checked, double checked, and then secured with the safety brake restraint	Breathing apparatus <input type="checkbox"/>
13. The load should be secured and positioned correctly. The load restraints should be checked and double checked	Face masks <input type="checkbox"/>

Assessment of Risk:	Severity	4	X	Likelihood	2	= Risk	8
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Additional Controls required	PPE/Equipment
Only authorised personnel are allowed to tow the trailer (currently only Ash & Dave)	
Tasks to be limited and third-party transport to be used wherever possible	
The employee must be adequately trained and competent to drive with trailers attached	

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Newly trained staff should be supervised until a suitable level of competency has been achieved

Assessment of Risk:	Severity	3	X	Likelihood	2	= Risk	6
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Approval and Review		
Prepared by:	Cathy Sheehan	30/06/2021
Updated by	Ash Soliman	04/10/2024
Review by:	Ash Soliman	04/10/2024

RISK RATING = L x S			Hazard Severity (S)				
			1	2	3	4	5
			Negligible	Slight	Moderate	High	Very High
Likelihood (L)	1	Very Unlikely	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW	LOW
	2	Unlikely	LOW	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM
	3	Possible	LOW	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH
	4	Likely	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH
	5	Very Likely	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	HIGH	HIGH

Likelihood	
1. Very Unlikely	A freak combination of factors would be required for an accident/incident to occur
2. Unlikely	A rare combination of factors would be required for an accident/incident to occur
3. Possible	Could happen when accidental factors are present but otherwise unlikely
4. Likely	Not certain to happen but an additional factor may result in an accident/incident
5. Very Likely	Almost inevitable that an accident/incident would occur

Hazard Severity	
1. Negligible	Negligible injury, no absence from work
2. Slight	Minor injury requiring first aid
3. Moderate	Injury leading to a lost time accident
4. High	Involving a single person with a serious injury / death
5. Very High	Multiple persons with serious injury / death

Outcomes	
LOW	Score (1-6) May be acceptable. Annual Review to see if risks can be reduced further
MEDIUM	Score (8-10) Identify controls must be identified or specific method statement required
HIGH	Score (12-25) Task must not proceed. Senior Management to consider if the risks can be reduced by purchase of additional training, additional equipment, additional staff, additional signage, safe system of work, permit to work or radical changes in method.

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Prepared by	Cathy Sheehan
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