

Shared Learning

Key learning following a serious incident



Life Saving Rule Breach

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors

Ref: SCL NRL 18/05

Date of issue: 21/12/2018

Location: Queen Street Station, Glasgow

Contact: Innis Keith, Head of S&SD, IP SNE



Overview

Following an accident where a hired 6 tonne Wacker Neuson DW60 dumper collided with a Pelican crossing traffic column, a design issue has been identified and addressed by Network Rail Bulletin NRB 18/19.

The dumper operator was a temporary agency worker transferring granular fill material during a night shift between the main site compound and another area via the public road – a journey of about 10 minutes.

The investigation has revealed that the operator of the dumper, while assessed as competent to operate the dumper and holding a construction plant safety certificate, did not have a driving licence to drive on the public road.

This was unlawful and broke Network Rail's Life Saving Rules.

Holding a driving licence is not required to get plant operating certification.

Underlying causes

- The Principal Contractor failed to carry out a risk assessment for the use of this route, it was not planned and was not included in their Traffic Management Plan.
- The Principal Contractor had measures to manage the risk of construction plant on the public road including permits and checks but failed to implement them in this case.
- Key supervisory roles on the project were not aware of the requirements for taking construction plant onto the public highway.
- While competent to operate the dumper, the operator did not hold a driving licence.
- The operator did not challenge the instruction to use the public road between sites.

Key message

All site plant movements on highways should be limited.

Any plant movements on the public roads should be risk assessed with details included in a Traffic Management Plan.

Life Saving Rules must be clearly understood by everyone working on site

What you need to do now:

Always check that required competencies, including driving licences, are in place for operating plant on Network Rail sites.

Provide opportunities for safety conversations and the use of the WorkSafe procedure, especially for agency staff or those less familiar with Network Rail requirements.

Check Life Saving Rule compliance on your sites.