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Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Safe use of 1 Tonne site dumpers

For the attention of; Network Rail Staff, Principal Contractors and Contractors for non-notifiable works

Background:

Due to a number of incidents involving 1 Tonne dumpers, IP Southern and PSLG took the decision to suspend these machines from use. A note was issued from PSLG, but no safety bulletin was issued.



Following investigations, neither vehicle capability nor defects were identified as root causes. Any suspension on 1 tonne dumpers put in place can now be removed provided the minimum requirements set out below are followed.

Vehicle Selection and Management:

- Planned works must be **risk assessed** and appropriate dumpers selected for the task.
- Selection criteria must consider size and capacity requirements and the stability of the vehicle.
- Roll-over protective structure (ROPS) and seat restraints fitted.
- Alternatives (eg tracked dumpers) must be considered in locations with poor ground conditions/significant slopes.
- All vehicles must be properly maintained, safe to operate and subject to a pre-use check.
- Dumpers should not be loaded to a level that will prevent drivers seeing the route ahead.
- When not in use vehicle engines should be off and keys removed.

Site Management:

Traffic management plans should be in place on all sites. Where dumpers are in use these should include:

- the need for clear warning signs on routes used by dumpers, avoidance of slopes across the direction of travel, requirements for barriers where routes pass edges/drops, segregation of people/plant.
- maintenance requirements to minimise potholes, ruts, debris and other obstructions,

Drivers:

Task briefings should inform drivers of site and activity risks along with control measures. Drivers must be competent and certificated in the use of the type of vehicle being operated. Keys must be held by authorised drivers and not be loaned to other workers. Further guidance can be found on the safe use of dumpers by clicking on this HSE link www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cis52.pdf