

Accident at Hither Green Station

APPLICABLE TO : All Operatives

A lorry driver employed by Quattro was recently injured when he was trapped between two road vehicles.

He was standing on the roadway, in the process of securing a road rail vehicle on a low loader lorry, when another lorry passed the stationary Quattro vehicle.

Whilst the vehicle was passing, the driver became trapped between the two vehicles.

He was airlifted to the local hospital and treated for a punctured lung and rib fractures.

This accident is under investigation by various parties.

As an interim measure an Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin has been produced – attached.

Can we remind all operatives of the following -

- **All operatives must read and understand this alert and consider the circumstances of this accident.**
- **All operatives are reminded of the risks in and around depots and access roads from moving vehicles (This includes trapping and collision).**
- **When working on the off side of a vehicle on the public highway all operatives must consider and implement a suitable system to ensure you're safety (a safe system of work).**
- **When using Road Rail Vehicles, all operatives must consider the arrangements in place for delivery / collection of the Road Rail Vehicle**



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Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

Accident at Hither Green Depot.

For the attention of all Network Rail and Contractor staff

Background:

A Lorry driver employed by Quattro was collecting a Road Rail Vehicle and trailer from the approach road at Hither Green Maintenance depot. The depot and the approach road are owned by Network Rail, however all areas, including the approach road, are also utilised by Thameslink Project, Balfour Beatty and DB Schenker.

The Road Rail Vehicle had been left on the verge adjacent to Road Rail Vehicle access point, on Network Rail owned land, just outside access gate into depot.

The Road Rail Vehicle and trailer had been loaded and it is understood that the driver was in the process of securing the load while standing on the roadway. An assistant, also employed by Quattro was working on the opposite side of the vehicle.

Another lorry owned by Gatwick Group, having made a delivery to Balfour Beatty, exited the depot gates and passed the Quattro lorry.

Fig 1:- Site of the Accident



The injured person was working at this point.

This is the scene after the injured person has been removed to Hospital. This is also the view the driver would have had as he left the depot approaching the stationary low loader.

From marks at the scene, it is believed the front offside wheel mounted the kerb, onto a grass verge.

It is believed the rear wheel failed to follow the front and was constrained by the kerb. It is believed the rear of the moving lorry crushed the injured person against his lorry.

Fig 2:- Other vehicle involved in the accident



An ambulance was summoned immediately. The accident was attended by Metropolitan Police, British Transport Police, and Health & Safety Inspectors from the Office of the Rail Regulator and the Health & Safety Executive, together with Network Rail managers. The injured person was airlifted to hospital and underwent an operation for a punctured lung. All of his ribs are broken. He remains in the Intensive Care Unit, in a drug induced coma and on a ventilator.

Immediate Action - Investigation

The Infrastructure Maintenance Engineer from London Bridge will lead an investigation with a remit to be produced with input from the Safety and Compliance team.

The Office of the Rail Regulator have also expressed an intention to investigate

The British Transport Police are also currently investigating the accident

The Director, Infrastructure Maintenance and Engineering Compliance Manager, Quattro have held a joint site visit to review the incident and discuss with the local team

Action Required: All employees

- 1. All employees and contractors are to be briefed on the circumstances of this accident and reminded of the risks in and around depots and access roads from moving vehicles.**
- 2. All employees must consider and implement a safe system of work when working on the off side of a vehicle on the public highway.**
- 3. When using Road Rail Vehicles, all employees must consider the arrangements in place for delivery/collection of the Road Rail Vehicle.**

This Safety Alert must be displayed for 28 days on the Safety Notice Board

Issued by: Justin Page, Head of Infrastructure Maintenance Safety and Compliance