

Safe reversing of appliances

The Health and Safety Executive has recently successfully prosecuted a grocery wholesaler who was found responsible for the tragic death of a worker who was crushed by a reversing HGV.

The wholesaler was fined £1 million for the death of the father of two. This serves as a reminder of the risks we face when safe reversing procedures using bankspersons are not followed.

Nearly a quarter of all deaths involving workplace transport occur during reversing.

Many other reversing accidents do not result in injury but cause costly damage to vehicles, equipment and premises.

Most of these accidents can be avoided by taking the precautions below:

Trained bankspersons must be used, both to keep the reversing area free of pedestrians and to guide the driver.

A banksperson:

- will need to use a clear, agreed system of signalling
- will need to be visible to drivers at all times
 - will need to stand in a safe position, from which to guide the reversing vehicle without being in its way
 - should wear hi-viz clothing and ensure that any signals are clearly seen
- if drivers lose sight of the bankspersons they should know to stop immediately
- consider whether portable radios would be helpful

Technical Services are instigating a trial of marshalling wands/lights such as these:



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