

Safety and health alert

09/05 Lack of maintenance on road train leads to joint Police/WorkSafe action

Incident

WA Police Service attended a serious motor vehicle collision in South-West WA. A split pin and a castellated nut failed, causing a road train trailer to detach and crash into an oncoming vehicle. The police investigation concluded the primary cause was a lack of maintenance of a part of the road train vehicle. The WA Police Service requested DOCEP, WorkSafe Division investigate the maintenance aspects of the road train, including the obligations and responsibilities vehicle owners have under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* in relation to maintaining the vehicle in a safe roadworthy condition.

The WorkSafe investigation concluded the vehicle was not effectively maintained, and by that failure, the company breached its duty of care towards other road users.

Factors to consider

- Commercial vehicles are workplaces to which the occupational safety and health laws apply.
- The manufacturer's maintenance instructions in respect of the ringfeder towing eye were not followed.
- No maintenance records existed for the trailer.

Recommendations

1. Ensure plant and vehicles are operated and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and specifications.
2. Ensure regular inspections to identify hazards, assess risks and control risks.



Further information

For further information on this summary please contact Chris Kirwin, Regional and Primary Industries Team on (08) 9722 2888.

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