

SHE Bulletin SB/313

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Towed trailer becomes detached

What Happened?

Last week a trailer carrying a mini excavator became detached whilst being towed. Fortunately, no people or other vehicles were involved although there was significant damage to the central reservation barrier.

The vehicle was fitted with Bradley **AutoJaw** hitch mechanism. Until the investigation reveals the cause of the incident, and identifies any additional actions, all those who use vehicles fitted with AutoJaw must comply with the following.

What must I do?



The following must be adhered to PRIOR to coupling any trailer to an AutoJaw hitch.

Ensure you are familiar with the AutoJaw operation and have access to the operating instructions.

If unsure, DO NOT OPERATE until instructions have been read and understood.

Ensure Auto jaw hitch is not visibly damaged i.e. lock lever handle is not bent, twisted or appears worn.

Ensure AutoJaw is clean and free from debris

Ensure AutoJaw is free in operation and does not appear to tighten at any time during operation.

Light lubrication, i.e. WD40 or equivalent, may be applied to moving parts.

Ensure AutoJaw latch is flat against the top of the AutoJaw body when trailer has been connected and the hook is in its closed position, prior to lowering the lock lever handle.

ALL OPERATIONS SHOULD REQUIRE HAND PRESSURE ONLY. DO NOT USE EXCESSIVE FORCE, YOUR FOOT OR ANY IMPLEMENT TO STRIKE THE LOCK LEVER HANDLE.

If in any doubt - DO NOT USE.

The vehicle will be booked in to a BT Fleet workshop/supplier for a Safety Recall in the very near future. Once recall has been undertaken it is the end users responsibility to report defects as and when they are identified.

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For further information regarding this Bulletin please contact your Line Manager or Mike Dowling, Senior Procurement Specialist (01926 655216)