

Failure of lifting equipment

Two incidents have occurred recently at our construction projects whereby the lifting equipment failed whilst in use manoeuvring a large waste skip. The skip (approximate weight 4 tonne) is the high sided skip commonly found on site (pictured here in the background).



Investigations have taken place to determine the cause of the failures

At the time of both incidents the skips were being moved by a telehandler. The telehandler was positioned in front of the skip and lifted one end of the skip. It has then attempted to push the skip using the rollers on the other end to roll it. It is thought that the loads are increased on the forks because they are positioned near to the strengthening beams that run laterally along the base of the skip, therefore tying the forks and not allowing lateral movement



It is believed that both failures have been caused by massive lateral loads being imposed by the action of the vehicle and the pushing of the skip.



Learning points

- **Telehandlers must not be used on any VINCI project to move this type of skip.**
- Telehandlers are not designed to push / pull skips in this way.
- The forks are designed for vertical loads, not horizontal loads.
- Any movement of these types of skips should be undertaken by the delivery lorry, with its dedicated lifting arm.
- The telehandler, forks or other critical components could become damaged (and not recognised) and could fail on a subsequent lift or at any time in the future.