

SAFETY ALERT

378 - Trailer Safety & Load Security

Background

Recent trailer-related incidents across the business have highlighted the need for increased focus on trailer safety.

These incidents have involved issues such as trailer attachment failures, unsecured loads, equipment defects, and vehicle damage.

While many incidents did not result in injury, the potential consequences include serious harm to workers, members of the public, damage to company vehicles, client property, and other road users.

Trailer safety is not limited to driving. It begins with ensuring the trailer is roadworthy, correctly connected, appropriately loaded and secured and always operated with consideration for the surrounding environment.

Safety Issues

Trailer Condition and Inspection

- Damaged or worn tow hitches, couplings, safety chains, tyres, or lighting systems can lead to trailer failure during transport.
- Missing locking pins or incorrectly fitted couplings can result in trailer separation.
- Safety chains that are damaged, excessively worn, corroded, or incorrectly attached may fail when needed most.

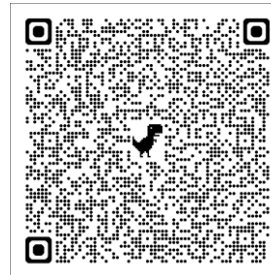
Unsecured Loads

- Loads that are not adequately restrained can shift during transport.
- Falling or moving loads can cause vehicle instability, damage equipment, or create hazards for other road users.

Lack of Situational Awareness

- Trailers require additional clearance when turning, reversing, and manoeuvring.

- Failure to identify nearby vehicles, pedestrians, structures, fences, or public assets can result in collisions and property damage.
- Reversing incidents are common when visibility is restricted.
- Contact with parked vehicles, infrastructure, landscaping, or client property can result in significant repair costs and reputational damage.



RECOMMENDED WAYS TO CONTROL RISK

- Complete regular trailer inspections using the form in Prosafe – QR Code above.
- Also complete pre-use inspections before every use.
- Ensure trailer hitch is secure and in safe condition for use.
- Ensure all loads are properly secured with adequate and correct restraints (inspect all restraints before use).
- Always be mindful of your surroundings.
- Protect Programmed and public property.
- Report damages and/or defects immediately.

Inspect it. Secure it. Hitch it. Check Restraints. Check your surroundings.

For more information contact safety@programmed.com.au

Date of Issue: 27/08/2026

Report all incidents and near misses

Please display on Safety Noticeboards and raise this matter at the next Toolbox Talk or Safety Meeting.