

Truck Mixer Wedged Under Bridge

WHAT HAPPENED

A truck mixer was carrying a load of concrete to a customer site, on route the driver encountered a low bridge and knew that it would be tight to go under the bridge, he slowed and put the vehicle in 1st gear. On exiting the bridge there was a steep incline causing the drum ring to wedge under the bridge. The vehicle could not go forwards or backwards.

The police and Network Rail were informed and the railway closed for 46 minutes until the vehicle was freed by releasing air from the tyres. The investigation has found that the bridge height indication was 11ft 3 inches and when measured, the height of the truck was 12 ft 2 inches. The driver did not know the height of his vehicle and it was not indicated in his cab.



Wedged under Low Bridge



Height Indicator

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

- If a vehicles overall travelling height or trailer exceeds three meters there must be a notice in the cab, where it can be easily read by the driver.
- The notice must indicate the overall travelling height of the vehicle (to a tolerance of plus 150mm) in feet / inches or both feet / inches and meters, (but not in meters only).
- The numbers in feet/inches must be at least 40mm tall
- The requirement of the notice is not covered in an MOT test
- Importantly the driver must know the height of his vehicle and not take the risk.

(editors note. Specific to UK; clearly requirements in other countries will vary depending on the units used and what the law requires).

LOCATION:	ON-HIGHWAY	ALERT STATUS:	Normal
ACTIVITY:	TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS / DELIVERY	DATE ISSUED:	14/09/2011
SUB ACTIVITY:	MOBILE PLANT	INCIDENT No:	00311