

HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERT

TITLE OF ALERT	HEi089 Accoustic Fencing		
TARGET AUDIENCE	Everyone engaged in site activities	REF NO.	19-ConR-A008
AUTHORISED BY	Paul Harte	DATE ISSUED	29/05/2019

REASON FOR THIS HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERT

The below alert has been produced by Forkers and shared by Highways England (HE) following an incident involving Acoustic Fencing. This has been shared by HE to their Supply Chain Partners for information.



Background Information

To undertake work overnight and to ensure that noise levels were adequately controlled, Acoustic Fencing was used. When a HGV/LGV passed the fencing (during the daytime), it failed and fell from the verge area into the oncoming traffic striking a car.

Investigation Findings

- The fencing had been left in situ for several days
- The fencing was positioned less than 1.2m from the edge of the carriageway (0.8m)
- One of the acoustic panels became detached from the mesh fencing allowing for high winds to enter inside causing the end panel to be pushed from the footing and from the couplers causing it to fall to the ground
- The fencing was battered by high winds (causing excessive wind loading) that was generated by vehicles passing causing the fencing to gradually fail

ACTION TO BE TAKEN AND LEARNING TO BE APPLIED

Lessons Learnt (Consider)

- The fencing was only a temporary solution to reduce noise levels and should have been removed once the road closure had been lifted, but preferably after noisy operations have been completed and replaced with Chapter 8 orange barrier
- Where fencing and acoustic barriers exposed to environmental factors such as wind loading, a suitable temporary design should have been developed

Actions (Considerations)

- Ensure that regular checks of the site are completed especially where signage, fencing, etc is left in situ
- Fencing with acoustic barrier to be removed at the end of the working shift or when road closure is lifted/removed, **but preferably ASAP after noisy operations have been completed**

- Where the fencing can't be removed, the acoustic panels should be removed from the mesh fencing to remove the risk of wind loading unless a temporary works design is in place and the fencing has been erected to that design
- Regular inspections of fencing (especially when acoustic barrier is attached) should take place ensuring that it is safe and that it won't cause a danger to the public
- Regular pre-start briefings and toolbox talks to be completed

CONCLUSION / FINAL NOTE

Please ensure this is shared with all relevant parties.

Please display this Health and Safety Alert on noticeboards and brief to all relevant employees within 48 hours.

HEALTH AND SAFETY ALERT REVIEW FORM

Please review the content of the above Health and Safety Alert for relevance prior to communicating the contents to your workforce. Please complete the form and action as necessary.

1. Has the content of the Health and Safety Alert been reviewed by the account's operational managers?

PLEASE TICK:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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2. Could a similar event occur on your account?

PLEASE TICK:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (answer Questions 3, 4 and 5)	<input type="checkbox"/> No (answer Question 6)
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3. What control measures are in place, or need to be put in place, to mitigate and manage the potential for an occurrence of this type (or similar) on your account?

- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx
- Xxxxx

4. Are these control measures sufficient to mitigate and manage the risk of an incident of this type (or similar) described in the Health and Safety Alert from occurring?

PLEASE TICK:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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5. If you have answered No to Question 4, please raise an independent action on Airsweb, detailing the corrective actions required and record the reference number below.

AIRSWEB REFERENCE NUMBER:	
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6. Please explain why this event could not occur on your account:

- xxxxx

7. The person conducting the review is to complete the details below:

ACCOUNT NAME:		DATE:	
REVIEWER'S NAME:		SIGNATURE:	

