

GAP Tool Box Talk: Trailers



Purpose

To provide guidance on:

- The precautions to be taken when working with trailers, plant and equipment
- Pre-use checks prior to work starting
- Securing the load

Regulations

- The Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992

Trailers, plant & equipment

Hirers and USERS of trailers, plant & equipment have legal duties to ensure safety

- The aim is to prevent accidents / incidents
- Work equipment should be safe when supplied
- The risks during use need to be controlled
- Those in control should:
 - Assess the risk
 - Plan safe systems of work
 - Ensure that these are communicated and followed
- All drivers should be properly trained and competent in the operation all trailers, plant and equipment
- All drivers **MUST** be over the age of 18 years

General Precautions

- Equipment should only be used by people who have been trained
- Consider the risks to other people who are nearby when operating equipment
- Before use, ensure that equipment has no obvious defects
- Bring any defects to the attention of your supervisor and where appropriate inform the hire company
- Be aware of any pre-use checks and carry them out
- Always check the means of communication required with others during use
- Do not carry any passengers unless designed to do so
- Observe site speed limits
- Always obtain assistance when reversing

Checks to be carried out prior to operating equipment

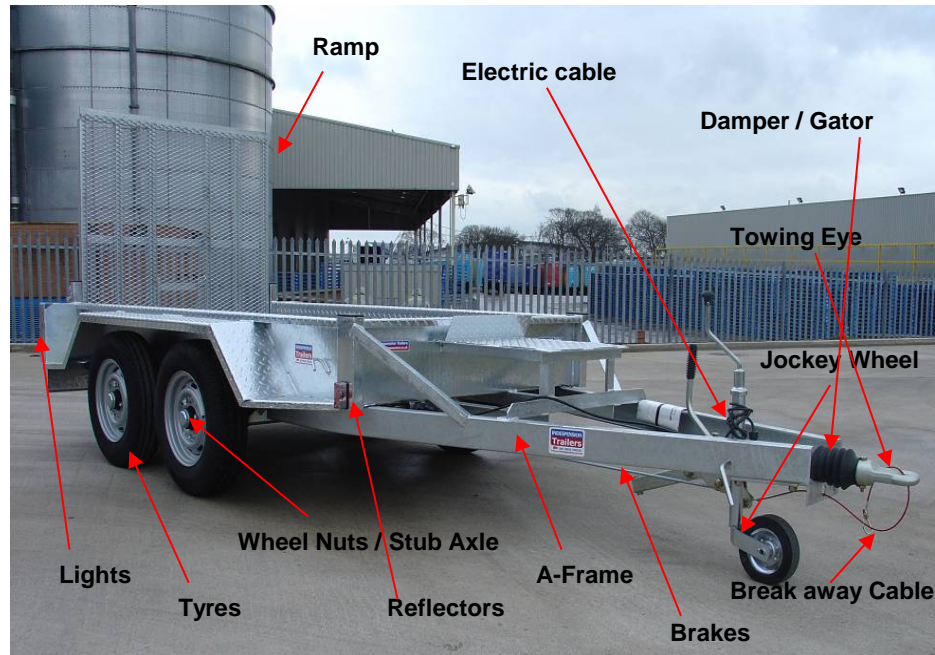
- Has the driver got the correct PPE?
 - Hi visibility clothing
 - Hard hat
 - Safety footwear
 - Gloves
- Has the driver read and understood the operating instructions?
- Has the driver checked and understood the Safe System of Work for the site?
- Has the driver carried out the daily checks?



Daily Checks

At the start of each working day, various areas of the plant item should be checked:

- Tyres
- Wheel Nuts
- Guards
- Lights / Reflectors
- Jockey Wheel / leg
- Breakaway Cable
- Electrics lead
- All safety decals
- Locking pins for ramps



Loading an excavator

When loading an excavator on to a trailer the following must be checked:

- Each axle should not be over weight
- Ensure VIN plate is in place showing axle weights
- Additional buckets should be transported in the vehicle
- Hitch height should be between 425mm & 475mm (1)
- Position the excavator dozer blade 425mm from the front of the trailer head (2)
- Advice stickers available on the trailer (3)

(1)



(2)



(3)



Security of the load

- Securing the load of the vehicle and trailer is the responsibility of the driver
- Always use 3 restraining straps
- One strap should be used to secure the boom at the bucket
- Always ensure the slew pin is in the correct position
- 2 straps placed diagonally across the tracks (Front to back)

**FAILURE TO SECURE THE LOAD COULD RESULT IN
LOSS OF LOAD AND PROSECUTION**