

Mead House
Bentley
Farnham, Surrey
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Date: 30/11/18

Dear Haulier/Haulage Operator

Re: Near Miss - Potentially Fatal Accident 29th Nov 2018

I am writing to inform you of a near miss which occurred yesterday afternoon, 29th November 2018. A flat bed loaded with hard wood chip/firewood, lost a length of timber onto a busy “A” road narrowly missing a number of other road users.

I take the view that this is a very serious incident that had potential to cause death. Had the van which recorded the incident on dashcam been closer, or had the timber slid into oncoming traffic there is no doubt the consequences could have been life altering for all concerned; driver, haulage operator and of course the injured party and their families.

It is essential that all loads are properly secured and that means double strapped. Euroforest will operate a zero-tolerance policy on this issue going forward. From Monday 3rd December 2018 any driver not complying with the FISA standard operating guidance (see below) will be suspended for 7 days.

SECURE YOUR LOAD

Ensure that the correct number of pins are fitted to secure the load and use two correctly rated straps per bay unless you are sure the bay cannot move (for example, if a full height headboard is fitted, when one strap may be sufficient).

Although you may not be able to safely secure straps as you load between timber stacks, you should do so as soon as possible. Never drive any distance with your load unsecured.

Remember that roundwood should always be loaded along the length of the load bed and never at right angles to the trailer. Make it easy for the load to be unloaded at its destination by not interlocking bays or bridging bays. Where this is unavoidable, all bays must still be adequately strapped.

The bottom line is that as the driver, you are ultimately responsible for the safety of your load. Checking it's secure before you set off and regularly during your journey (particularly when you leave uneven forest roads) could prevent serious accidents.

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The photographs below are still images taken from the “dashcam” footage of the incident and clearly show the potential seriousness of the incident. We require your absolute support in ensuring that this does not happen again.

Directors: P Watson (Chair); D Symons (Managing Director), A Williams, D C Smith, G A Ralph; R Palmer, K F Turzik
Registered No. 1153003 England. Registered Office: Mead House, Bentley, Farnham, Surrey GU10 5HY



Please help us in keeping your drivers, your businesses and other road users safe.

Yours sincerely

Simon Wallis

Compliance Manager

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