

NZ Safety Alert

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our workers safe

August 2019

Nut failure on truck drawbar

A loaded truck and trailer was entering a quarry when a loader operator spotted the 'A' frame drawbar pin had dropped out. The loader operator alerted the truck driver.

The drawbar pin was replaced and taken to the engineering workshop where it was discovered the lock-tight nut had failed. The pin was repaired, checked and put back into service.

This potentially serious incident could have caused a road accident and endangered lives. The failure of the lock-tight nut would have been hard to spot during pre-start checks and will require extra scrutiny.



You need to ensure that:

1. Vehicles are regularly inspected, and maintenance conducted in accordance with Original Equipment Manufacturer requirements.
2. Pre-start vehicle checks are conducted at the start of each shift on which a vehicle is to be operated. Particular attention should be given to safety critical parts such as pins on drawbars and other locking devices.
3. Operators are trained and assessed as competent to operate mobile equipment, including safety checks. This needs to include model/equipment specific training and assessment.

MinEx data on incidents with the potential to cause harm over the 21 months to March 2019 shows that 28% of all incidents (502 incidents) result from vehicle incidents, 42% of which are due to loss of control of a vehicle.

Know of an incident or near miss? Please share the learnings with us.