

AN POST-S&E-STP 07.32

Mails Delivery Networks – Rail Bridge Strike Prevention

This Safety Task Procedure reinforces mandatory controls required when passing through/under railway bridges while driving mails delivery networks (MDN) vehicles Rigid and HGVs, so as to prevent bridge strike events happening.

Drivers must adopt these controls to avoid future events.

It is important to comprehend that Bridge Strikes can cause serious injury or death, and drivers may place themselves at risk of prosecution of a serious driving offence and/or disciplinary action if they fail to comply with the following advised workplace safety controls as they extend to work vehicles under the 2005 Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act.



The Irish Rail (Iarnród Éireann) network comprises around 400 bridges which cross public roads. These are bridges where rail lines cross over a roadway. Every year, bridges are hit by vehicles which are too high to pass underneath. The damage done to the bridges is not always obvious, but can be serious.

As a professional driver you must take certain precautions when approaching rail bridges. Under the Railway Safety Act 2005, drivers who ignore safety warning signage and drive under and strike a bridge are liable to a fine of €5,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment and 3 penalty points on summary conviction, and on indictment up to €50,000 and/or 6 months imprisonment.


And for failing to notify a bridge strike, on summary conviction, a €1000 fine.

An Post HGV vehicles operate to fixed scheduled routes across the Mails Delivery Network or MDN. The design of these routes is such that An Post vehicle heights are suitable for the routes they drive. This includes vehicles pulling twin deck trailers. If you are uncertain of a particular duty/clar or a particular route or have a query in this regard, contact Mails Delivery Networks on 01 **4269763**.

SAFETY CONTROL MEASURES /KEY ACTIONS REQUIRED

Mails Delivery Networks

- An Post HGV vehicles must operate to fixed scheduled routes across the Mails Delivery Network or MDN. The design and extent of these routes should be recorded and be such that An Post vehicle heights are suitable for the routes they drive. This includes double deck trailers or road trains etc.
- The following emergency contact number (in decal format) to be contacted in the event of a bridge strike occurring or observed must be prominently placed in all MDN Vehicle driver cabs

If you strike a Bridge or witness a Bridge Strike, phone this number immediately. 01 855 5454 

- A copy of the Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) bridge height booklet must be provided for all MDN drivers.

Mails Processing & Final Mile Operations Site Management

- A copy of this Safety Task Procedure (STP) must be posted on staff safety noticeboards.
- Site managers must ensure that all MDN drivers under their control are briefed in this STP (ensuring that drivers absent from work receive it on their return). The Dublin drivers branch will require this action to be completed by Mails Networks.
- A copy of the Iarnród Éireann (Irish Rail) bridge height booklet must be provided for all MDN drivers (in conjunction with Mails Networks).
- Transport Sections /Operations Managers must conduct random checks to ensure compliance with this process.

Note. The purpose of this exercise is to reinforce and ensure that drivers know and understand this safe work practice and are aware of the consequence should there be a failure on their behalf not to comply with this advised safety policy

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Mails Delivery Networks (MDN) Drivers

If you strike a Bridge or witness a Bridge Strike, phone this number immediately.

01 855 5454

- Plan you daily work, do not rush your work.
- Comply with this Safety task procedure which reinforces mandatory controls required when passing under rail bridges, so as to prevent a bridge strike happening. You must always adopt these controls in practice so as to prevent future events.
- Obey the rules of the Road when driving and parking.
- Report all accidents, incidents and near misses as soon as possible after occurrence (normally within 24hrs) to your immediate manager. You will be required to complete an M2 and any other reports which may be requested of you by the company.
- You are obliged to report accident/incident events to the manager for the site where the event occurred and also to your own site manager, should the event occur on a different site.
- You must always wear your PPE when driving for work, it is Mandatory company policy.

MANDATORY PPE TO BE WORN:



Immediate Action in the event of a Bridge Strike

If your vehicle should collide with or become stuck under a railway bridge or if you witness any other vehicle striking a bridge, contact Irish Rail **IMMEDIATELY** on **01 855 5454**. You could prevent a further more serious accident.

Detailed Information on bridge heights is available in the Irish Rail booklet 'Headroom restricted railway bridge map for the republic of Ireland'.

A Copy of this information booklet should be carried in your vehicle at all times.

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DOs ✓

DON'Ts ✗

Drive under bridges with caution

Don't ever think it's safe to predict when the next train will come

Know the height of your vehicle and load at all times

Don't drive under a bridge which is lower than the height of your vehicle (*height displayed in cab over driver's seat*).

Obey statutory height restriction signs on bridges

Do not ignore bridge signage

Check the bridge heights on your route through the live map at <https://www.irishrail.ie/en-ie/train-timetables/live-train-map>.

Don't delay in reporting a bridge strike.

Stay on approved road networks only.

Do not use unapproved roads or routes.

Hazards (Non-Exhaustive)

Rail bridge Strike (involves a vehicle striking or colliding with a railway bridge structure while passing under it, which may result in damage to the bridge structure or vehicle, getting stuck under bridge, collapse of bridge, train derail, damage to Irish Rail Infrastructure, causing injury or death (multiple) and or property damage.

Medium Risk

Risk Assessment Matrix

Frequency of Exposure to Hazard		+	Severity of Likely Outcome	x	Probability of Occurrence	=	Risk
10	Continuous	10	Catastrophe (Multiple deaths)	5	Certain to Occur	100	Very High Risk, Take immediate action
9	Very Frequent						
8	Frequent, A few times a day	9	Disaster (Death)	4	Can Be Expected To Occur	90	High Risk, Action Required Urgently
6	Occasionally, A few times per week	8	Very Serious (Hospital)	3	Quite Possible	50	Medium Risk Correction Required
4	Few per month	7	Serious (Doctor)	2	Unusual But Possible	20	Low Risk Possible Action Required
2	Rare, Few per Year	5	Important (First Aid)	1	Unlikely	10	Low Risk Acceptable
0	Very Rare	3	Noticeable	0	Practically Impossible	0	No Action Required

Degree of Risk is defined as:

Frequency (8) + Likely Outcome (9) x Probability (2) = Degree of Risk which is 34 = **MED RISK WHERE ALL CONTROLS HAVE BEEN PUT IN PLACE**

(0-20 Low risk; 21-50 Medium Risk; 51-100 High risk)

Related Safety Task Procedures/Documents:

NB. Company related documents available to Managers on Safety Server 'SharePoint'