

Wheeled plant and underslung loads standard

New Standard for travelling with underslung loads

Following a recent incident involving an item of wheeled plant over turning when travelling with an underslung load, and the experience of some of our peers with underslung loads, the transport of materials using this technique has been reviewed.

The result of this review is that the transportation of loads underslung from telehandlers is only permitted in exceptional circumstances and where there are no reasonable alternatives.

All possible alternatives to the telehandler travelling with an underslung load must be exhausted for the operation in question. Available alternatives, such as a wheeled crane, must be considered.

Where the transportation of underslung loads is unavoidable, the following applies:

- Prior to the load being moved the ground condition of the route for the plant must be firm and level. The telehandler must be selected for the specific task and appropriate for the route and the load
- All loads must be fitted and carried in accordance with the guidance produced by the Construction Plant Association (CPA) and the Strategic Forum Plant Safety Group ([Safe use of Telehandlers in construction](#)) and Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) (NOTE: there is a new CPCS category scheduled for 2016 for the lifting and transport of suspended loads with telehandlers using hook attachments. Existing CPCS telescopic handler card holders will need to site a theory and practical test to gain this endorsement.)
- A specific risk assessment must be prepared and this must include the consideration of reduced visibility and the impact of long loads
- Under slinging loads is classified as a lifting operation and shall always require a lifting plan. The plan must demonstrate that the telehandler will be operating within its limits
- If lifting from forks, proprietary attachments that can be physically locked to the forks, must be used and these included within the specific lifting plan



NEVER undersling directly from the forks without a suitable proprietary attachment

AVOID the underslinging of loads for transportation where possible



Where underslinging cannot be avoided, the correct attachments must be used and control measures implemented