

HEAVY TALK

Issue 25 January 2012

ABNORMAL LOAD NOTIFICATIONS

HTA Members have received an email from Merseyside police stating that from 1st November 2011 they will no longer accept a 'monthly' notice of movements but request the exact time and dates. They have also stated that the driver must be in possession of the notification and be able to produce it if requested by a Police Officer and that failure to comply with relevant legislation would result in prosecution.

The statement has caused considerable concern amongst those in the industry since it is obvious from a practical standpoint it will not be practical to comply with this interpretation of STGO since it is seldom possible to provide an exact time or date for a movement.

The HTA secretariat has written to Merseyside Police for clarification of the position pointing out that Merseyside's action may be unlawful. It appears Merseyside Police may be acting outside the scope of their authority. The HTA has invited a representative from Merseyside Police to attend the general meeting to address the issue. A representative from South Yorkshire police and Leicestershire police have also been invited to attend the meeting. This meeting will present the first realistic opportunity for the respective sides to air their views.



King Trailers are to host the January HTA meeting. Over recent years King has been involved in several major transport equipment projects and has contributed towards a number of blue chip transport projects. King's engineering advances are driven by legislation changes and major Government developments in the aerospace, nuclear, energy and military markets

**ESTA'S EXPERTS SUMMIT:
SAFETY ISSUES IN WIND TURBINE INSTALLATION AND TRANSPORTATION**

ESTA is planning a one day conference, where safety issues/accidents connected with transporting and erecting wind turbines are to be discussed. The conference will take place in Hamburg, Germany on: Wednesday March 14th, 2012, at the Courtyard Hotel Marriott, Hamburg Airport.

There will be speakers from the crane and trailer manufacturers, a Health and Safety Executive from Siemens, and a speaker from a wind turbine consulting group. ESTA has also secured participation from most of the European wind turbine manufacturers at the conference.

It is a conference aimed directly at all ESTA members engaged in the transportation and erection of wind turbines. The conference program is currently being finalised. The admission fee is expected to be € 250 and this will cover all conference material, conference room, settings, two coffee breaks, lunch and a dinner in the evening.

Please contact Katharine Narici at the HTA secretariat if you are interested in attending the meeting.

ABNORMAL LOAD ESCORT DRIVERS- RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION

You may well have read quotes from our Chairman on the work the HTA is doing to gain a recognised qualification for Abnormal Load Escort Drivers.

The HTA is working with the Association of Industrial Road Safety Officers (AIRSO) to improve the safety of other road users when they are interacting with Abnormal Loads being escorted by private escorts. You will be aware that the Police forces of the United Kingdom no longer ordinarily escort abnormal loads and that this activity transferred to the private sector who operate under the Code of Practice for Self Escorting of Abnormal Loads and Abnormal Load Vehicles. One of the problems with the Code of Practice is that it is voluntary and does not prescribe hard and fast rules; rather, it describes itself as an authoritative statement of best practice. The second issue with the Code is that private escorts do not have the powers to stop and direct traffic. This in itself can cause conflict between Abnormal Load Vehicles and their escorts and other motorists. It is self evident that stop and direct powers granted to properly trained escort drivers will enhance road safety and prevent road traffic collisions. The police forces and individual Chief Constables do not wish to grant these powers, even though legislation allows them to, on the grounds of uncertain standards of training or competence of escorts and the lack of an effective complaints procedure - they are probably right in having these views.

The HTA and AIRSO are in the process of developing properly accredited training, probably in a two tier structure that would overcome some of the fears of Chief Constables i.e. escorts trained to a consistent standard with tests to show competence. The first tier of training would allow an individual to escort a vehicle but not to plan or control the task, the second tier would allow the individual to plan and execute a task and to stop and direct traffic. It is early days but this could become a reality in 2012. It is anticipated that certainly for second tier escort drivers requalification would be required perhaps every 2 or 3 years. We propose that the second police issue, an effective complaints procedure, be resolved by AIRSO who has no ties with the Abnormal Load or Escort industry, and who is well known and regarded by the Government and the Police Forces.

Work on this continued at a meeting with AIRSO and Skills for Logistics, just before Christmas which was attended by HTA committee member Ian Brooks and Chairman John Rodell. AIRSO and Skills for Logistics have agreed in principle to take the qualifications forward for accreditation. There are a number of things still to be done, such as developing training objectives, how training deliverers will be accredited and selected, and whether ACPO will accept these qualifications for awarding Stop and Direct powers. It is expected that the HTA will deliver training to members who want it.



INTERNATIONAL HAULAGE AND THE NIGHTMARE OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Illegal immigration is becoming an increasingly prevalent and serious problem for operators who carry out international work. It appears that despite having X-ray machines in place, French immigration control often do not raise concerns regarding the presence of clandestines, who then go on to be detected at UK border control.

There a strict rules and defending illegal immigration 'stowaway' cases is very difficult unless you have the correct systems in place which include having documentary evidence of instruction and training of drivers regarding the prevention of clandestine entrants. Attention must be paid to the Code of Practice on the prevention of Clandestine Entry issued by the Home Office. Compliance with the Code is necessary in terms of having an effective system in place.

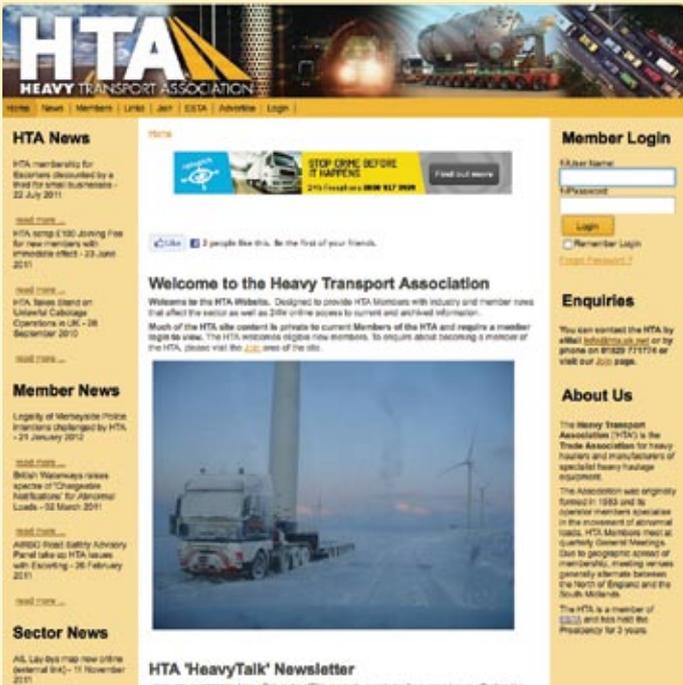
Fines for non-compliance can run into several hundreds if not thousands of pounds, and both the operator and company and driver can be fined with a maximum fine of £2000 each per illegal immigrant.

Any operator carrying out international work must ensure that they have taken all the necessary steps to protect themselves. There is information available on the UK Border Agency website, but advice is mainly geared to operation of curtain-sided or closed sided vehicles with guidance on the use of tilt cords and padlocks. Abnormal loads cannot be secured in such a way and operators rely on the use of canvas sheeting and ropes to secure the load.

If you require further information or advice on the above issue, please contact Katharine Narici at Dyne Solicitors Limited.

HTA WEBSITE

Publishing the newsletter electronically/online has saved several thousand pounds in printing and postage costs for the last 12 months since the change was made (the design/layout costs remain). In addition the website has recorded over 4,500 downloads of the last 18 issues of the newsletter in the 12 months the site has been running so is clearly reaching out beyond simply the membership. This would have cost over £2,600 (2nd Class) or £3,375 (1st Class) in UK postage alone.



www.hta.uk.net

The HTA website has also had its first commercial advertiser creating revenue for the Association.

The HTA website continues to reflect the day-to-day business of the HTA and its Members – periodic emails are sent to Members with any items of potential interest as they occur. The intention is to send less attachments to Members; rather an email with links to the website content which the member can choose to view/download – this allows Members to choose what they wish to view and reduces inbox clutter.

NB: Some content will be 'Member only' so you will require your login to view/download. If Members have any problems with login, please contact HTAadmin@HeavyTransportAssociation.org.uk. You may also wish to refer to the original email sent to you around the time of your user details (search your inbox for 'New HTA Web Site - HTA MEMBERS PLEASE READ'). If you would like this re-sent, forgotten your username etc, please contact the above address.

Opportunities for Members to promote their business:

- Photos:
The home page photo needs to be updated fairly regularly so please forward any good photographs with a strong/positive image of an HTA member 'in action' – something like a seasonal theme helps as well (see the current 'snow' theme photo from Colletts on the home page)
- Members Gallery:
Showcase jobs you're proud of by sending in a photo and text (refer to the HTA website under Members Gallery).

Ian Brooks, HTA Committee

NEW MEMBERS:

The HTA is pleased to welcome the following new members:

ALAN HINDLE TRANSPORT LTD

www.hindletransport.co.uk (Contact: Alan Hindle)

CADMAN PLANT LIMITED

www.cadmanplant.com (Contacts: Neil Cadman, Debbie Clarke)

INTER COUNTY PILOT SERVICES LIMITED

www.intercountypilotservices.co.uk (Contact: Jon Hunt)

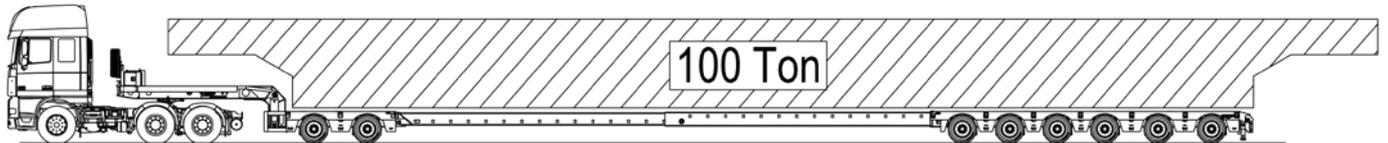
HTA NATIONAL ABNORMAL LOAD NOTIFICATION DIRECTORY

For further information go to www.convoi.co.uk and click on 'shop', or email caroline.ward@convoi.co.uk for an order form.

ROAD TRANSPORT LAW

A new website dedicated to road transport law has been created. For information please visit www.solicitors4transport.co.uk

100 TONNER



Broshuis introduces a new range 100(+) tonners. These 100 tonners are available in different types of configuration and already been sold.

- 2+6 (100 ton), 3+6 (110 ton) and 3+7 (120 ton)
- Single, double and triple extendible
- Sliding and fixed axle bogie

Because of the independent wheel suspension, it is possible to transport these huge weights on a 790mm high trailer bed (even when triple extended). When the trailer stays extended, 2 axles remain connected to the gooseneck. These two axles compensate the 30 ton movable gooseneck to generate a good kingpin pressure and ideal distribution of load.

Advantages:

- 12 ton per axle line and 790 mm bed height
- Ideal distribution of load
- Low maintenance costs
- Simple to change tires
- Lowest investment value

This new range of SL-Trailers will be present at the Bedrijfsauto RAI (17th-21st of April 2012) in Amsterdam.

SL-TRAILERS: Super low and super light on weight and the lowest investment value!

TRUCKPOL

TruckPol is a nationwide police intelligence service which records information on all aspects of road freight crime. By submitting information to TruckPol you could be helping to solve a serious crime in our industry. Tel: 0247 826246 www.truckpol.com

ADVERTISEMENTS

If anyone wishes to advertise in an issue of Heavy Talk, please contact Katharine Narici on 01829 771774 or by e-mail (info@hta.uk.net), for details.

netwatch

Protecting logistics premises and cargo units

- STOP FUEL CRIME IN ITS TRACKS
- SAVE MONEY WITH NO UP-FRONT CAPITAL OUTLAY
- BESPOKE NEXT GENERATION ASSET PROTECTION SOLUTIONS

24h Freephone: 0800 917 9909
www.netwatchsystem.co.uk

DELIVERING PEACE OF MIND

Telephone: (0)1628 876263 | Fax (0)1628 876277 @NetwatchUK

DISCLAIMER

The Heavy Transport Association (HTA) has taken care to ensure that the information contained in this publication is accurate in all material respects. The HTA shall not be liable for any losses suffered or expenses incurred howsoever or wheresoever arising whether directly or indirectly and whether consequential or otherwise due to any inaccuracy of the information contained.

The views expressed in this article in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the HTA but those of the individual contributors.

HEAVY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

The White House High Street Tattenhall Chester CH3 9PX
Tel: +44 (0) 1829 771774 Fax: +44 (0) 1829 773109 E-Mail: info@hta.uk.net
www.hta.uk.net