

Important Safety Alert: Trailer Chain Lifting Failures

Dear Members of the Log Transport Safety Council,

We want to bring to your attention some recent incidents involving trailer chain lifting failures. These occurrences have highlighted that current practices for conducting chain checks may not be meeting the standards established by the Log Transport Safety Council's Industry Regulations.

It is essential that:

- Annual chain inspections are completed by a competent person; as defined in the Chain Check and Compliance paperwork:

'A person with knowledge of truck servicing and measurement tools such as a mechanic, transport manager or experienced vehicle inspector, trained service manager, engineer or manufacturer's representative.'

- Regular maintenance is upheld throughout the year to ensure lifting chains remain safe for use.
- Any component of the lifting chain that shows signs of wear and tear must be replaced immediately. Further use of the chain should not occur until the replacement is completed.
- Drivers are aware it is their responsibility to:
 - Conducting pre-use checks thoroughly and consistently.
 - Staying up to date with certification and training requirements.
 - Reporting concerns without delay.

In light of the recent failures, LTSC is looking to review and update the code. In the interim, **we strongly advise all operators to upgrade to 16mm Hammerlocks and Grade 100 16mm chain around the lifting ring, to reduce the impact of grapple damage causing premature failure.**

