

Serious Near Miss – Defective Sliding Roof

What Happened:

A driver was asked to open his rear doors, then one curtain and then the sliding roof in readiness for overhead crane loading.

The driver unlocked the roof using the wire and put his roof pole in place and proceeded to pull the roof open whilst walking backwards. The roof was stiff and jammed. The loading site staff gave him their roof pole to use which was longer, while the site staff assisted by pushing on the roof bars with timber posts. The roof pole broke and the driver fell backwards onto the trailer bed. Luckily he was not hurt and able to carry on with his duties.



Picture taken from AB/013/2017

Findings:

- The roof had been tested at the induction centre but not opened fully
- Driver was walking backwards pulling the roof open
- The roof had a defect which caused it to jam
- When excessive pressure was applied to the roof pole, the pole broke causing the driver to fall backwards
- On inspection by the trailer repair service, faulty parts were found in the roof mechanism and replaced

Recommendations:

Drivers and Hauliers should:-

- ✓ Ensure drivers actively report defects they find on trailers for repair
- ✓ Re-emphasize the importance of following the correct safe working procedure for opening and closing sliding roofs. P&O Ferrymasters Ltd safe working procedure and what to do in the event of a fault guidance is available from our website: <http://www.poferrymasters.com/carrierinfo/safe-working-procedure-swp-0022.pdf>
- <http://www.poferrymasters.com/carrierinfo/sliding-roof-fault-finding.pdf>
- ✓ Inspect and promote regular inspection of trailers sliding roofs and roof poles for damage and defects.
- ✓ **Never** work on open sided trailers without fall prevention equipment.