



MEWP bucket detaches from vehicle in transit

During a routine journey being made on July 22nd the bucket on a Toyota Hilux MEWP became completely detached from its support platform and was dragged along the road for a short distance by its hydraulic hoses.

The driver recognised what had happened when he saw the bucket trailing in his side rear view mirror and immediately brought the vehicle safely to a standstill. Fortunately no one was injured and no third party was involved in the incident which occurred on the A5151 in North Wales near to a Caravan Park entrance.

Initial investigations revealed that the bucket became detached when 3 of the fixing bolts became loose and the 4th bolt sheared off resulting in the bucket falling from its mounting platform. Two of the fixing bolts were found resting in the chassis of the MEWP with no sign of a stress fracture or fatigue found on them.

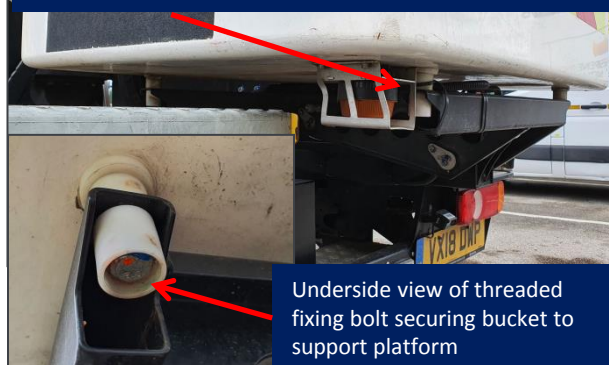
Investigations are ongoing with the supplier of the vehicle and an internal Panel of Inquiry (POI) has been initiated in parallel.

Immediate observations from initial POI investigations:-

- MEWP had been returned to SPEN from its supplier on 19th June following repairs to MEWP turret support arm.
- All LOLER safety certificates were valid and in date.
- Appropriate VC40 vehicle checks had been completed by the driver on the day of incident with no obvious issues found before commencing journey.



Typical bucket platform mounting with threaded bolt fixings in each corner



Underside view of threaded fixing bolt securing bucket to support platform

Recommendation Action Points

- Fleet business in conjunction with the supplier are undertaking safety checks of all Toyota Hilux MEWPs in SPEN of which there are 44 vehicles (24 in SPM and 20 in SPD) – First 8 vehicles have not found any similar issues or defects with the bucket fixing bolt assembly.
- All SPEN staff who use or drive a SPEN vehicle and in particular a Toyota Hilux MEWP are reminded of the need to complete a full inspection of their vehicle using the VC40 document before starting their journey.
- In regard to drivers/operators of a Toyota Hilux MEWP, staff should check that the bucket is secure and there is no movement on its platform mounting and also check the 4 fixing bolts before their journey or use.