

# Safety Alert

**Event Number:** Maximo 96516

**Event Date:** 03 / 02 / 17

**Classification:** Near Miss

## Tail Gate lost from Trailer in transit

**Description of Event:** On arrival at Electrix Palmerston North depot a lineworker noticed that the tailgate was missing off the trailer he had towed back from Paraparaumu. Another staff member had been following him earlier in the trip and confirmed that the tailgate was on the trailer when the vehicle turned off SH 1 onto SH 57 south of Levin. The vehicle travelled through rural and urban areas. Staff searched for the tailgate but it was never found.

Picture 1: Standard trailer latch in open position



Picture 2: Latch with retaining clip and tether installed



**Contributing Factors:** During travel the trailer tail gate latches have shaken into the open position allowing the tailgate to swing down on its hinges, and slide off the hinges, and fall from the trailer.

**Actions to Prevent Reoccurrence:** Trailers are being fitted with retaining clips attached to a tether, that clip through the trailer latch, and through the tailgate hinge pins, to remove the risk of tailgates becoming unlatched and falling from the trailer in transit.

**Lessons Learnt:** Check all trailers are fit for purpose prior to use. If tail gate or side latches are worn or loose, secure them with lashings/binder or ties until they can be replaced or have retaining clips fitted.

**For further information please contact:** Tony Bain PH 06 353 3555

**Date of release:** 26 / 04 / 17