What are Trailer Side Curtains?

- Trailer Side Curtains are designed to facilitate loading and access of goods and equipment.
- Side Curtains are often on rollers and hoops and secured with straps or Velcro fastenings, making unloading much more efficient and organised.
- Side Curtains also ensure the goods being transported are kept clean.
Avoiding the Risk of Injury

It is essential for all Drivers to be familiar with the safe systems of work for opening and closing curtains.

We will look at these systems in further detail...
Opening Side Curtains (1)

- There are many things to consider when opening and closing the trailer side curtains.
- Firstly, you should consider your own safety whilst opening the curtains by ensuring you wear the correct PPE.
Opening/Closing Side Curtains/ PPE Required (2)

1. **Gloves** to protect against cuts and punctures.

2. **Safety Boots** to protect from falling loads.

3. **Hi Vis Jacket** to ensure you are visible to others.
Opening/Closing Side Curtains (3)

- You should unbuckle each strap individually ensuring that fingers are clear of trapping in the ratchet.

- Take care and consider the weather conditions as when loose the straps could strike you.

- Grasp the front OR rear corner of the curtain using the handle and life the pole upwards from its position.

- Unwind the tension in the handle and lift the pole upwards and out of its slot.

- Using the handle pull the pole free from the trailer.
Opening/Closing Side Curtains (4)

- Move **one third** of the way up the trailer. Grasp two of the curtain straps by the buckle (DO NOT PULL THE STRAPS) and keeping your back straight and with outstretched arms close together, pull the curtain towards you. Avoid jerking the curtain.

- Move **two thirds** of the way up the trailer. Grasp two of the curtain straps by the buckle (DO NOT PULL THE STRAPS) and keeping your back straight and with outstretched arms close together, pull the curtain towards you. Avoid jerking the curtain.
Opening/Closing Side Curtains (5)

- Repeat until the curtain is clear for loading/off loading.
- You should carry out a final check to ensure all straps are unbuckled before attempting to open the curtains.
- Failure to open all buckles may result in the curtain tearing.
Opening Side Curtains (6)

- Take care when opening the curtains as the load may have moved during transit.

- Please ensure you have opened the curtains wide enough in order for the goods to be unloaded.

- And lastly, if you are struggling to open the curtains, seek assistance.
Incident Reporting

It is essential to report all Accidents/Incidents and Near Misses to your immediate Manager or Ross Macleod who will then assess the situation and if necessary carry out an investigation.
Q&A Exercise

Please complete your answers on the sheet provided.
Question 1

What should you be aware of when opening the buckles?
Question 2

What PPE should you wear and why?
Question 3

What should you do before opening the curtains and why?
Question 4

What should you be aware of when opening the curtains?
Question 5

What checks should you do before closing the curtains?
Question 6

What position should you be in when you open the trailer curtain?
Question 7

What final checks should you carry out?
Question 8

In the event of an accident, injury or near miss, who should you report it to?
Answers

Please check your answers on the following slides.
Question 1

What should you be aware of when opening the buckles?

- The weather conditions, to ensure the buckles don’t strike me.
Question 2

What PPE should you wear and why?

- Gloves to protect against cuts and punctures.
- Safety Boots to protect from falling loads.
- Hi Vis Jacket to ensure you are visible to others.
Question 3

What should you do before opening the curtains and why?

- Ensure all the buckles are unfastened to avoid tearing the curtain.
Question 4

What should you be aware of when opening the curtains?

- That the load has not moved in transit.
Question 5

What checks should you do before closing the curtains?

- Check the curtain track is unobstructed in order for the curtains to be able to close freely.
Question 6

What position should you be in when you open the trailer curtain?

- Your back should be straight and outstretched arms should be close together.
Question 7

What final checks should you carry out?

- A visual inspection of the trailer to ensure all buckles are fastened.
Question 8

In the event of an accident, injury or near miss, who should you report it to?

Ross Macleod or your immediate Manager
Trailer Side Curtains

How well did you do?

Do you now feel more comfortable in opening and closing trailer curtains?
Thank You For Your Time

...Any Questions?

Please speak to Ross Macleod

Please can you sign the Record of Training sheet.