TRANSPORT - Fatal 6 - Articulated truck rollover on soft verge

WHAT HAPPENED

A loaded articulated truck rolled over when it veered off the road onto the soft verge. The image shows the tyre tracks where the vehicle left the road.





The vehicle ended up on its side in the ditch at the side of the road.





No other vehicle was involved, and the driver was not injured.

KEY FINDINGS

Driver training

It was the driver's first day solo after having spent his first week undergoing 2 days training and 3 days driving alongside the lead driver for the route. The induction specifically highlights the inherent risks associated with this stretch of road (soft verges). It was his 7th load of the day (8 planned). HGV license held since Sep-23.

Conditions and behaviour

- The driver was wearing his seat belt.
- He was not using his phone at the time.
- He was travelling at 46mph (50mph limit).
- Weather was dry, visibility good, the road was dry.
- The white line, indicating the side of the public road, had not been repainted following re-surfacing

Follow-up

- The police who attended did not have the equipment to do a drug or alcohol test.
- Post incident drug and alcohol testing was arranged for the following morning; the alcohol test was negative; however, the driver was reportedly unable to provide a urine sample for drug testing after 3 hours.

Warning signs

- Concerns had been raised earlier in the day about his driving, clipping a kerb and over correcting steering. Subsequently, his supervisor 'stepped in' and spoke with the driver prior to the incident.
- The lane departure system triggered earlier in the day.
- This is the 4th almost identical incident in the last 10 years on this regular route.

LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED

- Remaining fit and alert and maintaining driving skills with regular training and assessment; approximately 50k similar deliveries have travelled this route without incident in the last 4 years.
- Wider road and / or kerbs along this stretch of highway. Request the Council to re-paint white lines on the side of the road. Raise issue of soft verges with the Council again to see if improvements can be made.

KEY REVIEW POINTS

- Ensure driver training and assessment programmes are effective.
- Ensure drug and alcohol testing is in line with company procedures including testing of new starters and contractors, with cause and post incident testing.

LOCATION:	**ON-HIGHWAY**	**ALERT STATUS:**	**Normal**
ACTIVITY:	**TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS / DELIVERY**	**DATE ISSUED:**	**26/02/2025 18:18:01**
SUB ACTIVITY:	**ROLLOVERS**	**INCIDENT No:**	**04860**