Collapse of standing trailer

WHAT HAPPENED

A contractor had just completed the loading of a pre-stressed beam and block consignment onto a 40ft third party haulier's standing trailer when the supporting legs gave way resulting in the partial collapse.

On this occasion the load remained intact and therefore the impact was damage only, but the potential was far greater.

Investigations identified that the weight of the load was appropriate for the trailer. However, the sequence of loading had placed excessive force onto the standing legs for a prolonged period of time, without a counter force / weight being applied to the axle area of the trailer bed. This caused the standing legs to fail.





LEARNING POINTS / ACTIONS TAKEN

• Review task risk assessments, ensuring all circumstances that could result in a vehicle / trailer collapse are identified and that appropriate control measures are implemented to prevent such an event
• Ensure all personnel responsible for loading are aware of the requirements of appropriate load distribution
• Ensure all loading and standing areas are appropriate (good, firm and level ground)
• Avoid leaving loaded trailers standing for prolonged periods of time
• Ensure vehicles and trailers are subjected to frequent and appropriate inspection by competent persons
• Formulate task specific SWP ensuring all loading operators are briefed/trained via toolbox talks accordingly and understand the safe systems of work. Maintain appropriate records