



A safer industry - Reducing accidents in car transportation

Brussels, Monday 2 November 2020

ECG – the Association of European Vehicle Logistics has presented the findings of its **Health & Safety Working Group** 2019 survey into **the dangers of loading and unloading car transporters**.

The report entitled **“Making the industry Safer - Reducing accidents in FVL, 2019 incidents & analysis”** is the result of an extensive survey aimed at improving H&S in the Finished Vehicle Logistics sector, specifically in road transport.

It focusses on accidents or occurrences which had a high potential to result in a significant accident and which occurred during loading and unloading operations on car transporters. The aim of this first report is to promote industry-wide knowledge about the most common accidents and to enhance prevention through useful recommendations.

Through its **online incident reporting tool** the association collected anonymised incident reports from members and categorised the incidents in ‘slips, trips, falls and other’, ‘roll-offs’ and ‘falls from height’. It was found that most accidents are avoidable if drivers follow safety procedures correctly.

Speaking to over 100 participants at a webinar to present the report, co-chair of the

working group and general manager for vehicle logistics at Toyota Motor Europe, Steve Thomas, stated: “If we all follow the safe working method and if we all create safe loading environments, we can make this industry a safer industry.” Earlier this year, the Working Group also published detailed guidance on [safe loading processes](#) and [safe yard design](#).

A total of 85 incidents were uploaded to the database in 2019 for analysis. However, ECG is calling on the vehicle logistics industry to submit as many reports as possible, including near misses that almost led to a serious accident.

“Unless we capture a majority of incidents, we cannot provide accurate, informative analysis and feedback. It is in everyone’s interest to do all we can to improve Health & Safety and to learn collectively as an industry and to reduce accidents” said Mike Sturgeon, Executive Director, ECG.

All Logistics Service Providers (LSPs), compounds and terminal operators including car manufacturers are invited to contribute to the [report](#). Confidentiality and anonymity of all data is guaranteed.

Note to editors:

ECG is the established platform for the outbound automotive logistics sector bringing together logistics service providers, manufacturer logistics managers and suppliers to the sector. ECG aims to facilitate non-commercial collaboration between member companies and assist them in sharing best practices in many operational areas, especially the harmonisation of operational standards.

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About ECG

ECG, the Association of European Vehicle Logistics, has been the voice of the Finished Vehicle Logistics industry in Europe since 1997. ECG represents the interests of over 130 member companies and partners, from family owned SMEs to multi-nationals, and is the major champion of the European vehicle logistics sector. ECG represents all transport modes at EU level – road, rail, maritime and fluvial. ECG Members provide transport, distribution, storage, preparation and post-production services to manufacturers, importers, car rental companies and vehicle leasing operators across the EU as well as in Norway,

Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine and beyond. They own or operate more than 380 car-carrying ships, 14,900 purpose-built railway wagons, 28 river barges and more than 27,800 road transporters.

As a major employer, the finished vehicle logistics sector plays an important role in contributing to the economic success of the European Union. ECG members have an aggregate turnover of around €24.5bn and their economic impact on companies associated with the sector is estimated at €64bn. [More than 112,000 Europeans are employed directly by the vehicle logistics industry and an additional 230,000 are indirectly employed in this sector.](#)

