



Loading Bay Safety
Logistics Matters November Editorial

Enhancing Loading Bay Safety: Practical Solutions to Minimise Risk

In logistics and warehousing, where speed and efficiency are vital, the safety of personnel is an absolute priority - especially in high-risk areas like the loading bay. According to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)*, over 5,000 transport-related workplace accidents are recorded annually within the logistics sector, with around 50 resulting in fatalities. Many of these incidents involve falls from vehicles or workers being struck or crushed, highlighting the need for safer systems and processes at loading bays.

Phil Thorpe, Industrial Division Manager at Hörmann UK, outlines how practical improvements in equipment design and operator training can go a long way in making these areas safer - without the need to compromise on performance or productivity.

Addressing Vehicle Movement Risks

One of the most serious risks during loading and unloading is vehicle creep - the unintended movement of a truck or trailer away from the loading bay leading to accidents, damaged goods, and operational disruption. To address this, Hörmann has developed an Automated Wheel Blocking System (AWB). This system automatically secures the vehicle's wheels, eliminating the need for manual wheel chocks and reducing human error. Operated from within the building, the AWB engages once the vehicle is positioned, and a traffic light system signals to the driver when it is safe to depart. Designed for durability and ease of use, it is suitable for a wide range of vehicles and environments.

Dock Levellers That Support Safe and Efficient Loading

A correctly specified and fitted dock leveller is essential for safe and efficient loading. Hörmann offer an extensive range of telescopic levellers that are designed to compensate for height differences between lorry beds, floors and ramps, enabling goods to move in a single, stable, horizontal motion.

During operation correct deployment of the loading bay is essential, and Hörmann's telescopic dock levellers facilitate this by incorporating clever, yet uncomplicated design features. For example, clearly marked positioning notches (two on each side of the dock lip), help ensure that the leveller is correctly located before use. Additional equipment such as reversing guides and dock bumpers further enhance safety and protect buildings and vehicles from damage.

An experienced team of Hörmann Project Managers are always on hand to provide advice on product specification and ensure that the right products are specified for the job.

Supporting Safe Operation Through Training and Maintenance

However, technology alone isn't enough - operators should also be trained to use loading bay equipment correctly. To support operators, Hörmann integrates QR codes on its products, linking to short, easy-to-follow training videos. These provide instant guidance on correct usage and safety procedures. For more in-depth training, the Hörmann Academy at our Coalville headquarters offers comprehensive courses covering all aspects of loading bay operations.

Routine and preventive maintenance of all equipment is also essential, with Hörmann providing nationwide servicing through our sister company FBS Hörmann. A network of over 150 trained engineers, who are available 24/7, 365 days a year, help to ensure that equipment remains in top condition and continues to operate safely and efficiently.

Prioritising Safety, Protecting Productivity

Improving loading bay safety doesn't require radical overhaul - it often comes down to the right equipment, the correct procedures, and training. Whether it's securing vehicles, smoothing the transfer of goods, or making safety information easier to access, small changes can have a significant impact.

With practical and effective solutions Hörmann UK is helping logistics operators take straightforward, valuable steps towards safer, more reliable loading bay environments. After all, safe operations aren't simply good practice – they are essential to keeping businesses running smoothly.

*(www.hse.gov.uk/statistics)

For further information on Hörmann industrial doors and loading technology visit [Industry. Commerce and Public Authorities | Hörmann](#) or call 01530 516868

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