



Customer Testimonial

How Meachers Global took Trailer & Driver Safety to the Next Level

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Jamie Terris
Fleet Director



Meachers Global Logistics is one of the UK's leading independent providers of freight and logistics services.

They are committed to providing one of the safest and most efficient fleets on the road, so when Maple launched their revolutionary anti trailer runaway solution, SafeConnect, they were quick to upgrade their entire fleet.

It was whilst enjoying a night at the 2013 Motor Transport Awards ceremony that Jamie Terris was once more reminded of an incident that has sat with him for some 20 years.

“I was at Tilsbury docks when another driver was coupling up to a trailer, evidently park brakes had not been applied on the tractor unit or trailer, as soon as he applied the service lines the whole unit began to suddenly roll backwards. The speed at which it all happened was quite remarkable. The memory of that incident and the potential dangers that lurk in the background each and every time you couple a trailer left a huge impact on me and I’ve always been keen to make this a safer process for our drivers,’ comments Jamie Terris, Fleet Director, Meachers Global.



At the Motor Transport event that night, Maple claimed the Innovation award for SafeConnect, a safety valve that prevents trailer brakes from being released during the coupling process, until the driver is safely back in the cab and in full control of the vehicle. As the details of the product were revealed, it resonated acutely with Jamie. “Ever since that incident I had been on the look out for a way to prevent such a scenario from occurring but had drawn a blank, there are some interventions for safe parking of trailers but not specifically the more dangerous act of coupling, which is the appeal of SafeConnect for me.”



An obligation to safeguard our drivers wellbeing

Jamie is quick to point out that at Meachers they invest heavily in ensuring their team are fully trained and equipped to carry out what can be a difficult and at times dangerous profession. “We are passionate about training and development, we will not waiver on this, we will encourage our drivers to do their job the right way and I am certain they do. But we are human beings, there are also occasions where something might go wrong and if we can take added precautions in the background to safeguard against potentially fatal accidents I believe we have an obligation to do so.”

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One of the biggest attractions of the SafeConnect system for Jamie was the fact that it still encourages drivers to do what they always do, to follow best practice in coupling processes. But in the event that they are distracted or make a mistake the SafeConnect system acts as a safety net. “What genuinely impressed me about SafeConnect was it’s relative simplicity, there were no changes to the process, nothing else for the driver to do, in fact they don’t really need to know it’s even fitted. We just have the reassurance, the guarantee that it is not possible for trailer brakes to be released until the driver is safely back in the cab, for me it was a complete no-brainer.”

Meachers were one of the first fleets in the UK to fit SafeConnect to their entire fleet and have continued to specify it on all new trailers. ‘A driver must complete thousands of trailer couplings in their career, 99.9% of those may well be done correctly but on those rare occasions something goes amiss, I’ve seen first hand how dangerous that can be. Who knows how many times SafeConnect has potentially prevented a rollaway or saved a life, the thought of just one is all the reason I need to specify the equipment and for that reason I’d implore anyone to consider SafeConnect.’

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For more information on the SafeConnect system and to learn how you can put a stop to trailer rollaways once and for all, visit www.maplefleetservices.co.uk or call now on 0161 429 1580.0

