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For the attention of Heath Westerman, Assistant Coroner, Cheshire

Date 13 May 2019

Dear Mr Westerman

REGULATION 28 REPORT FOLLOWING INQUEST OF MARK PARRY

Your letter of 20 March 2019 to Dr David Snowball, HSE's Acting Chief Executive, has been passed to me to reply, as the sector lead for the motor vehicle repair industry.

Your Regulation 28 report raises a concern that there are no published guidelines on how to approach work on air suspension systems on heavy goods vehicles.

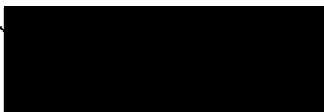
I have reviewed our current guidance and identified that we have two documents relating to work on air suspensions systems, however these refer specifically to buses and coaches. They are PM85 *Safe recovery (and repair) of buses and coaches fitted with air suspension* <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/pm85.pdf> and paragraphs 175-178 and 212-213 of HSG261 *Health and Safety in motor vehicle repair and associated industries* <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/priced/hsg261.pdf>


The guidance highlights the risk from the collapse of vehicles supported using air suspension and of fragments being ejected from the bellows at high speed. However, it does not identify control measures in relation to ejection or relate to vehicles other than buses and coaches.

HSE therefore plan to issue a safety alert, identifying the required control measures and emphasising the risks are present on all vehicle types with air suspension systems. As you can appreciate, this will take some time, as it will require consultation with industry; I hope this will be finalised by August 2019. The safety alert will be published on the HSE website and publicised through trade associations and e-bulletins.

Longer term, I will amend PM85 to address control measures in relation to ejection; and will review whether this guidance can be renamed to relate to all large vehicles with air suspension systems. I hope to complete this by the end of March 2020. HSG261 is also being updated and revised and the content relating to air suspension systems will be reviewed, though this a longer term project.

Yours sincerely

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HM Inspector of Health & Safety