Trailer Edge Protection System

The William Hare Ltd trailer edge protection system is included on the Health and Safety Executive’s website, as part of its *Falls from Vehicles* Campaign. See [www.hse.gov.uk/fallsfromvehicles/cs10.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/fallsfromvehicles/cs10.pdf)

This, and other case studies, show good practice from companies who have tried to reduce injuries due to falls from vehicles through sensible management of health and safety risks in the workplace.

**The solution**

The trailer edge protection system is:
- Fabricated within the company (patent pending);
- Has a steel universal beam at its base, with welded galvanised steel standards;
- Can be raised up to 16 feet from the floor, depending on the height of the steel load;
- Available in different sizes, to suit different lengths of trailer;
- Is secured to the trailer using ties; and
- Easy to manoeuvre using a crane or forklift.

The system provides ‘collective’ fall protection at different levels. The trailer bed is accessed using aluminium podium steps or, where space allows, a purpose-built gantry stair system at the rear of the trailer. The system can be left in position and vehicles driven between parallel sets of standards, where they are spaced at the correct width for the vehicle, or the edge protection positioned after the vehicle is parked up ready to be unloaded. Collective protection is provided also at the rear of the trailer, in the form of ‘bean bags’.

**The results**

The system prevents operatives falling when loading or unloading vehicles and is relatively quick and easy to install.