

SAFETY ALERT

Reminder to drivers and pedestrians

BACKGROUND

Recently a significant incident occurred in the vicinity of the south end of the cargo tunnel which had the potential for serious injuries. A lorry crashed into the rear of another which had stopped to pick up a pedestrian from another company wanting a lift.

It is essential that drivers leave sufficient distance between themselves and the vehicle in front so that they can stop safely should they need to do so.

While not a direct cause of the incident, it has highlight that some staff are undertaking the risky activity of 'hitching a lift' though the cargo tunnel. Pedestrians are not allowed to walk through the tunnel due to the risk to their health and safety. As this incident illustrates, pedestrians and others are also at significant risk by staff requesting transport through the tunnel by standing at the side of the road.

There are a variety of transport options for transferring between the CTA and the south of the airport (such as the airside transfer bus, the free landside buses and the Heathrow Express) and these should be used by staff going to/from their place of work.

ACTION

HAL recommends that companies operating airside undertake the following actions:

1. Reminder to drivers of the importance of driving with due care and attention at all times.
2. Communication to all airside pass holders that requesting or offering of informal transport through the tunnel and associated roads to those not on designated duties is not permitted and of the correct options for travelling between the CTA and southside of the airfield.

Issued by

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