

CONTRACTOR SAFETY ALERT



5 stud spider hub failure

Number: 64

Issued: 13/05/2022

Background

On 12th April, loaded FPC contractor log truck lost two wheels on its tri-axle trailer on the Southwest highway when all but one wheel stud sheared off the spider hub.

Fortunately, there were no injuries to the driver or other road users.



Key points

- An industry expert inspected the spider hub and has advised that one stud on the spider axle appears brittle and has most likely snapped off causing the remaining studs to fail, resulting in two wheels dislodging from the left hand, middle axle. The spider hub stayed attached to the axle, the axle did not drop.
- Speed, maintenance, and heavy braking ruled out as contributing factors.
- The FPC contractor has directed that a line is marked across the wheel nut, wedge and rim on one nut of each axle on all haulage vehicles with these arrangements. This will assist drivers to monitor movement.
- Industry consultation showed a consistent methodology for tyre fitting, maintenance and driving prestart and inspection. However, industry should also consider other initiatives to reduce the risk, this incident will be raised at the next Forest Industry and Safety Training Committee meeting for discussion.