

# Plant Operators Not Wearing Seatbelts

Version 1.0

## Context

FAME H&S Notices are real-world examples of incidents, provided anonymously by FAME members, that highlight learning opportunities for the sector to improve our health and safety working. However, they are not designed to replace existing guidance and this information is provided without any representations or warranties, express or implied. Please seek appropriate Health and Safety advice.

## The Incident

Over the course of a number of inspections and site visits, a FAME member has observed machine operators not using the fitted seat belts correctly. In some cases plant is fitted with a green flashing light (in addition to orange flashing lights). This will only light when the seatbelt has been engaged however, this measure may be circumvented by engaging the seatbelt and sitting on it instead of wearing it correctly. Please note not all plant will have a green lights fitted, other colours have also been observed though green is becoming the industry standard. Failure to wear fitted restraints could result in severe injury or death should an incident occur.

## Key Take Aways

- All machine drivers must use fitted seatbelts or restraints regardless of the present of flashing lights. A reminder of this should be briefed out to plant operators during their site induction.
- Where this is not happening the project leader/machine supervisor must stop plant operations until the situation is resolved.
- staff should report such issues to their supervisor/line manager immediately or, if they are confident and it is safe to do so speak directly to the plant operator.

**IMPORTANT:** for FAME members working in the UK - HSE now recovers the costs of time spent dealing with material breaches of health and safety law. This is known as Fee for Intervention (FFI). FFI generally applies when an Inspector finds something wrong that they believe is serious enough for them to write to you about. A fee is charged for the time spent by the Inspector in sorting it out, currently £160 per hour of their time.

### Resources

From the HSE (UK):

Workplace transport safety

[Workplace transport safety: A brief guide \(hse.gov.uk\)](https://www.hse.gov.uk/workplace-transport-safety/)

From HSA (Republic of Ireland):

Use of Safety Belts.

[Use of Safety Belts - Health and Safety Authority \(hsa.ie\)](https://www.hsa.ie/en-gb/health-safety/working-safely/use-of-safety-belts/)