

# Morrisons make it safer for their drivers and fitters

## Reducing falls from vehicles case study 4

*This case study is part of a series, which give examples of good practice to reduce injuries due to falls from vehicles through sensible management of health and safety risks in the workplace.*

### The challenge

Morrisons' refrigeration units on their articulated trailers need to have a service every eight weeks. Sometimes the fitter has to use steps or a working platform to get to the unit. Some parts that need routine maintenance can be up to 3.9 metres from ground level. Replacing heavy parts is difficult as the parts have to be supported by a fork truck or crane.

### Finding a solution

Morrisons has fitted fridge units underneath the trailer body, behind the under-run guard. The under-run guard hinges upwards to give access to the fridge unit. Controls are easy to access by the driver.

Although the under-slung fridge units may initially be more expensive, the additional cost is outweighed by the reduced maintenance and operating costs.



**Figure 1** Front mounted refrigeration unit

### The results

By standardising on units that are underneath the trailer, Morrisons' fitters have stopped working at height on trailer-mounted refrigeration units.



**Figure 2** Under-slung refrigeration unit

Fitters prefer working on the under-slung units as they are easier to get to and heavy parts are easier to install. If the unit needs to go away for repair, the fitter does not need to carry access equipment and the lift-up cover on the unit provides some protection against rain.

The former front-mounted units made it very noisy for drivers. A significant advantage of the under-slung units is a marked reduction in noise. This benefits the drivers and having the unit mounted at ground level reduces the airborne noise. As noise levels have dropped, so have complaints from residents living near to delivery points. This now allows Morrisons to make late-night deliveries.

Under-slung units also have the advantage that the unit does not take up the space between the trailer and the cab, which would otherwise make coupling the trailer awkward.