

Manoeuvring of Roof Trusses  
Draft Guidance to the HBF Health and Safety Committee  
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All roof trusses should be delivered on vehicles in such a manner to ensure that operatives do not need to access the rear of vehicles to remove straps or attach lifting strops.

The following hierarchy can be applied to the transport and manoeuvring of trusses on site;

- Trusses should not be lifted on to a roof via the telehandler with the only exception being garage or bungalow roofs with standard trusses, where a full assessment of each lift is undertaken and the machine is capable of the lift.
- Where practicable trusses should be lifted via a mobile crane direct from the delivery vehicle on to the roof i.e. 'just in time delivery'. This will require planning of both the site and delivery of trusses and should be the primary method of delivery and lifting.
- Where 'just in time' deliveries are not appropriately planned i.e. plot is not ready, trusses should be lifted from the delivery vehicle via the telehandler onto truss racks designed on loading bays or gable end scaffolds. The delivery vehicle should be positioned as close as possible to the plot under construction and the distance to be travelled by the telehandler limited. The storage of trusses must not impede the safe operation of the telehandler or access to the loading bays.
- If the above is not practicable and/or access to the construction area is restricted for the delivery vehicle, the trusses can be lifted from the vehicle on to an appropriately designed freestanding storage rack. The rack should be positioned as close to the plots under construction to limit the distance the trusses need to be moved when required. The truss rack should be continually re-sited as close to the work area where possible and be fully accessible by delivery vehicles.

The following conditions apply if trusses are to be suspended via the forks of a telehandler and transported on a development;

- The route from the truss rack or delivery vehicle to the plot must not be through occupied areas of the development where practicable.
- The route must be reviewed prior to transporting the trusses and an assessment made if any obstacles such as lamp posts or scaffold will affect the ability of the operator to manoeuvre the telehandler and load safely.
- The maximum load of trusses that can be transported via a telehandler from a truss rack or delivery vehicle to a plot is 600kg. The weight of all trusses installed on site must be known by site management and detailed in part 2 of this plan. This is the maximum load but this may need to be reduced depending on the span/pitch of the trusses, potential obstructions and capabilities of the machine.
- The tyre pressures must be within 10% of the maximum stated by the manufacturers and be checked prior to moving the load.
- The telehandler must be driven at no more than 10mph with no sharp turns or manoeuvres.
- A banksman must be available to provide appropriate signals to the operator and ensure no other persons are affected by the movement of the trusses.
- The operator must have full vision from the driving position and the trusses suspended from the forks so that the lowest point of the truss, (i.e. top chord overhang) is within 500-650mm of the ground.
- Trusses must not be moved when wind speeds at ground level are forecast to be or exceed 7m/s or 16mph.