



*At Network Rail we want to make the railway as safe as possible.*

*To do that we need your help.*

*This leaflet is a guide to the actions you should take before you start your journey and whilst on the road to help you avoid colliding with a low railway bridge.*



### *Signed Height Conversion Chart*

FEET/INCHES	METRES
16'-6"	5,00
16'-0"	4,85
15'-6"	4,70
15'-0"	4,55
14'-6"	4,40
14'-0"	4,25
13'-6"	4,10
13'-0"	3,95
12'-6"	3,80
12'-0"	3,65
11'-6"	3,50
11'-0"	3,35
10'-0"	3,05

### *Contact details*

If you would like more details please write to:  
**Network Rail**  
 6th Floor  
 Kings Place  
 90 York Way  
 London N1 9AG

Or contact our 24hr helpline:  
**08457 11 41 41**

This leaflet is also available to download, in both English and translated versions from our website [networkrail.co.uk](http://networkrail.co.uk)

# Preventing bridge strikes



*A guide for truck drivers*

*Safer road & rail travel*

## Before your journey, make sure you:

- know the height and width of your vehicle and load.
- display the vehicle height in your cab.
- plan your route to avoid height restricted bridges.



## On the road

Remember your vehicle height can change if you adjust the fifth wheel or unload or reload your trailer.

**When you approach a bridge check that the height of your vehicle and load is less than the dimension shown on signs for the bridge.**

- Always obey the height signs on bridges along your route.
- Narrow lanes often lead to low bridges, avoid them if possible.
- Only satellite navigation systems which use low bridges as points of interest will give routes that avoid low bridges.
- Never use a hand held mobile phone whilst driving – it is against the law.

**Stop and seek an alternative route if:**

- You are diverted from your planned route.
- Your route is obstructed by a bridge lower than the height of your vehicle and load.

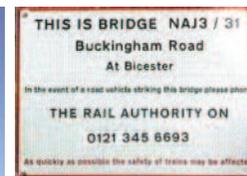


## Understanding bridge height restriction signs:

- These signs are provided at bridges to show the maximum permitted vehicle height when less than 5.0m (16'6").
- Dimensions are always displayed in feet and inches.
- Dimensions in metres may also be included on the sign, particularly on routes towards ferry ports.
- Height restriction signs can be circular or triangular:



- If your vehicle or load is higher than the dimension shown on a road sign at a bridge, you must not pass the sign.
- Warning signs and diversions signs may be visible before you reach a low bridge (*below left*).
- Before some bridges there are signs which will illuminate a message if your vehicle is too high to pass under the bridge (*below middle*).



## Arch bridges

The vehicle height limit may be indicated by white lines on the road and 'goal posts' on the bridge.

There may be two or more sets of 'goal posts' showing the different heights through an arch. As long as your vehicle height is less than the greater height limit shown, drive your vehicle under the central goal post to pass safely through the bridge.

## Bridge strikes can be dangerous

**If you are involved in a bridge strike you could:**

- Be killed or seriously injured.
- Cause the death of, or serious injury to, other road or rail users.
- Cause the derailment of a train.
- Damage the load and/or your vehicle, be left stranded and possibly lose your job.
- Cause serious disruption and delay to local road and rail traffic.

## In the event of a bridge strike, you must follow these steps:

- Step 1:** Call the number on the plaque on the bridge, giving the bridge reference (e.g. NAJ3 / 31) and the location (e.g. Buckingham Road, Bicester - see *left*).
- Step 2:** Report the bridge strike to the Police by dialling 999.
- Step 3:** Report the bridge strike to your employer.
- Step 4:** Keep the public away and do not move your vehicle.