



Vehicle & Operator Services Agency

Understanding your braking connections is vital!



If you are a heavy goods vehicle driver and you don't use the correct tractor to trailer connections then you could cause a collision as tragic as this one.

The driver of the white articulated vehicle did all he could to avoid an oncoming trailer swinging out of control into his path. He was unable to get out of the way. **He was killed.**

If you don't use the correct ISO cable and cause a collision like this you may find yourself with the loss of life on your conscience.

The cause of this fatal collision was the failure of the driver to use the ISO7638 cable, a cable connection that many drivers regard as unimportant. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This cable provides the electrical feeds for all braking functions. It transmits braking information between the tractor and the trailer without which the electronic braking system (EBS) can not function correctly. It is used to provide the electrical feeds for Anti-lock (ABS) and load sensing (LSV) systems.

Some trailer manufactures provide a secondary electrical feed from the lighting connections or other source that enables ABS and the LSV to function, but many will rely on the ISO7638 connection alone. So if you regard the ISO7638 cable as unnecessary and don't use it then you are taking a gamble that could cost you or others their lives.

The use of ISO7638 connections became law from May 2002 where the tractor and trailer are both provided with connections.

If you fail to use the cable and there is a collision in which someone is killed then you could be facing a charge of manslaughter.

If you want to know more contact your local VOSA Enforcement Office (Enforcement Examiners are based at most Goods Vehicle Testing Station) or phone the VOSA National Number:

0870 60 60 440