



February 2026 // Issue 14

# Back-to-Work 2026

## Hardhat Upgrade for Enhanced Site Safety



There is a positive change to the wearing of hard hats requirements later this year. From **August 2026** all Heidelberg Materials sites require any person attending site to wear a safety helmet which includes a fixed 4-point chinstrap.

**The 4-point chin strap helmet is mandatory for all employees and contractors when:**

- Entering or exiting vehicles.
- All working at height activities where a person could be injured following a fall
- When a risk assessment identifies the need to do so

For all the above activities the helmet must be worn with the chin strap securely fastened to prevent it coming off in the event of a fall.

## Happy New Year and welcome back!

Transport team took a new approach to the back-to-work presentations in 2026

This year, drivers were invited along to attend a presentation showcased by your local transport team.

Across the tipper region, the presentation has been delivered to 700 drivers and operators.

We hope the driver engagement supports relationship building and continue to provide a safe working environment for all.

## Winter Working

**Incidents increase by a third during winter months!**

Preparation:

**Before your journey:**

- Check weather and Route
- Clear vehicle of snow and ice
- Double check tyres
- Emergency kit
- Topped up fluids
- Brake & lights check

**During your journey:**

- Reduce your speed
- Avoid harsh breaking/accelerating
- Watch for black ice

- Slow down well in advance at bends and corners
- Increase distance between vehicle in front
- Smooth steering, braking and acceleration prevents loss of traction and skidding

**In difficult situation:**

- Have a backup plan/point of contact
- Diff lock if required
- Stay warm and rest

**STAY SAFE!**





## Driver Wellbeing

- 1 in 4 people experience mental health issues
- At any given time 1 in 6 working age adults have symptoms associated with poor mental health
- Mental ill health is responsible for 72 million working days lost in the UK at a cost of £56B a year
- In Britain, someone is made ill by stress every 2 minutes (TUC October 2015)
- Mental Ill-Health is the largest cause of long-term sickness absence (42%), followed by Musculoskeletal System Disorders (13%). (Gov.uk 2022)
- The risk of suicide is 3 x higher in this sector than the national average
- 97% of workers experienced stress in the last year (Chartered Institute of Building 2024)

### Risk factors:

- Isolation and lack of contact with managers
- Poor welfare provision (for example, toilets, rest breaks, nutrition)
- Exposure to traumatic events or collisions
- Cultural issues such as bullying or exclusion
- Personal life changes (bereavement, financial stress, caregiving).

### The impact:

- Reaction time and hazard perception
- Risk assessment and decision-making
- Emotional regulation and rational responses
- Sleep quality, leading to fatigue
- Compliance with safety protocols.

## Powering Your Business: Why Stream is the New Standard for Heidelberg Partners



As a franchise partner, your fleet is the heartbeat of your business. But between managing

driver safety, maintaining vehicle compliance, and overseeing daily logistics, the administrative burden can be overwhelming.

To help you scale efficiently and stay protected, we are introducing **Stream**- the all-in-one digital command center designed to put you back in the driver's seat of your operations.

### Everything in One Place: The Single Sign-On Advantage

One login gives you a 360-degree view of your entire operation, accessible from your desktop or mobile.

- **Integrated Camera Access (Instant Peace of Mind):** Protect your business from "he-said, she-said" insurance claims. Access

live vehicle footage and event-triggered recordings instantly. Whether it's a site dispute or a road incident, you have the video evidence to protect your drivers and your reputation.

- **Driver Data & Behavior:** Your drivers are your biggest asset. Stream tracks driver performance - from harsh braking to digital pre-use checks - helping you coach your team toward safer, more fuel-efficient habits.

### Why Adopt Stream Now?

- **Reduce Admin Hours**
- **Instant Camera Footage**
- **Heidelberg Alignment:**

**The Bottom Line:** Stream isn't just a tracking tool; it's a business management tool designed to make your franchise leaner, safer, and more profitable.

### Mental health charities and organisations

**Mates in Mind**  
020 3510 5018  
matesinmind.org

**Lighthouse Club**  
0345 605 1956  
lighthouseclub.org

**Samaritans**  
116 123  
samaritans.org

**Mind**  
0300 123 3393  
mind.org.uk

**Shout**  
Text 85258  
giveusashout.org

**Hub of Hope**  
hubofhope.co.uk

**Mental Health Foundation**  
020 7803 1100  
mentalhealth.org.uk

**Campaign Against Living Miserably (CALM)** 0800 58 58 58  
thecalmzone.net

## Additional resource:

**Heidelberg Materials Driver Handbook**  
can be found here:



**Near Hits reporting**  
can be found here:



**National Tipper Induction**  
can be found here:



**MPA Driver Handbook**  
can be found here:

