

A line of white Volvo trucks parked in a lot under a blue sky with clouds. The trucks are arranged in a row, receding into the distance. The foreground truck is a Volvo FH11, with 'FH11' and '440' visible on its side. It has a blue license plate that reads 'HOLVO TRUCK CENTER'. The background shows more trucks and a clear sky with some clouds.

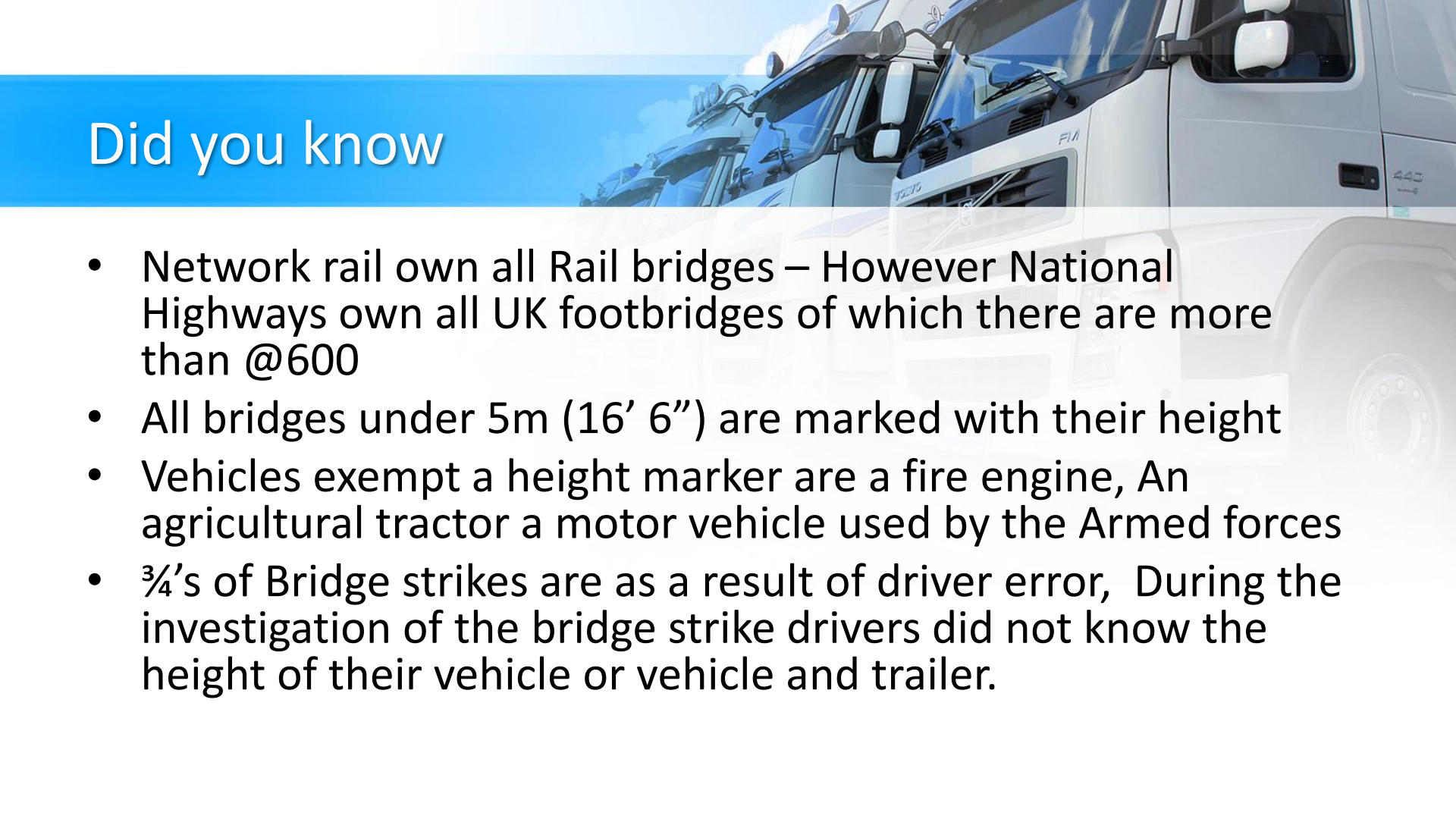
BRIDGE STRIKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

DCT Consultancy Ltd

How to avoid BRIDGE STRIKES

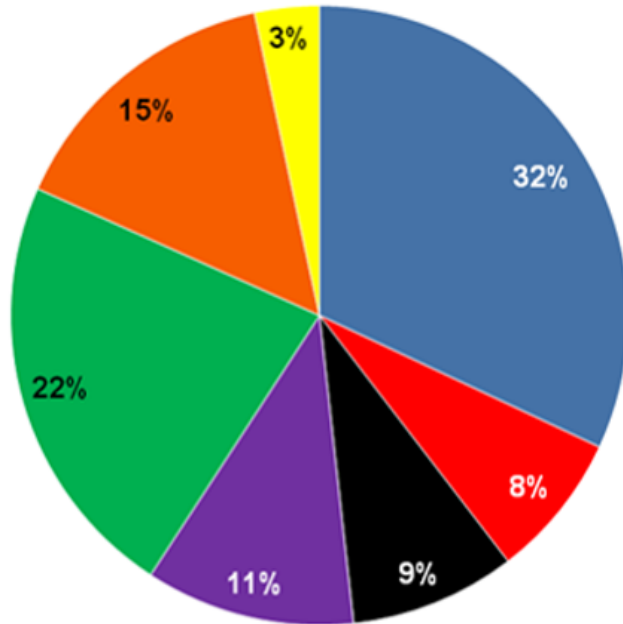


Did you know



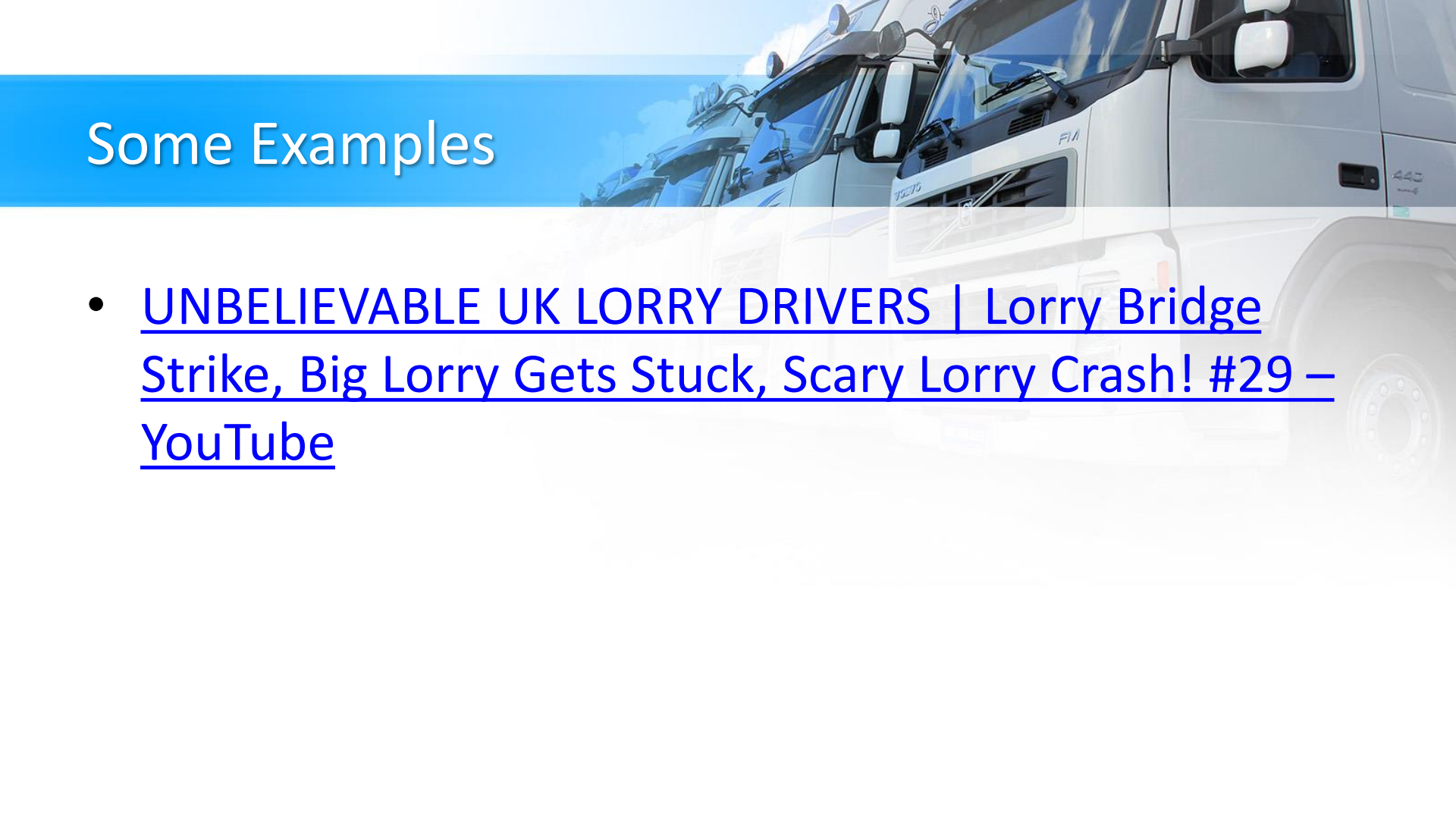
- Network rail own all Rail bridges – However National Highways own all UK footbridges of which there are more than @600
- All bridges under 5m (16' 6") are marked with their height
- Vehicles exempt a height marker are a fire engine, An agricultural tractor a motor vehicle used by the Armed forces
- ¾'s of Bridge strikes are as a result of driver error, During the investigation of the bridge strike drivers did not know the height of their vehicle or vehicle and trailer.

Bridge strikes



- Drivers not knowing vehicle height
- Drivers not believing signs
- Inadequate signing
- Poor information about low bridges when planning a route
- Poor route planning
- Drivers not understanding signs
- Other

Some Examples

A background image showing a line of white semi-trucks on a road, viewed from a low angle. The trucks are moving towards the right. The sky is blue with some clouds. The image is slightly faded to allow the text to be read.

- [UNBELIEVABLE UK LORRY DRIVERS | Lorry Bridge Strike, Big Lorry Gets Stuck, Scary Lorry Crash! #29 – YouTube](#)



The Road Traffic Act 1988 Section 3 states:

The Road Traffic Act 1998 section 3 states:

*'any road traffic collision that causes damage to a third party must be reported.
Each bridge strike will cause damage to a bridge and therefore must be reported'.*

The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 statutory instrument No.1078 (as amended) requires:

'the maximum travelling height of the vehicle must be displayed on a notice in a prominent position in the driving cab, when the overall travelling height of the vehicle, its load or equipment exceeds 3m.'

How do you measure your vehicle



The height of the cab ?

When the trailer is added so the 5th wheel increases the height?

The extra Skip?



Best Practice – MEASURE



- ✓ Always measure the vehicle height before starting a journey and after loading or unloading.
- ✓ When measuring, park on a flat surface and level the vehicle with air suspension if available.
- ✓ Check the cab height and the trailer height and record whichever is the highest.
- ✓ Don't rely on the manufacturer's labels. Take a manual measurement of the actual maximum height based on the load and your tractor/trailer combination.
- ✓ Measure the highest point of vehicles with a variable load height.
- ✓ Record the height of the vehicle on the walk around check report.

Height Marker



HGV height indicators **MUST** be where it can be easily read by the driver. Numbers must be at least 40mm high. indicate the overall travelling height, with a tolerance of plus 150mm. be in feet and inches or both feet and inches plus metres (but not in metres alone).

The fine for not displaying = £50



What do these signs mean?



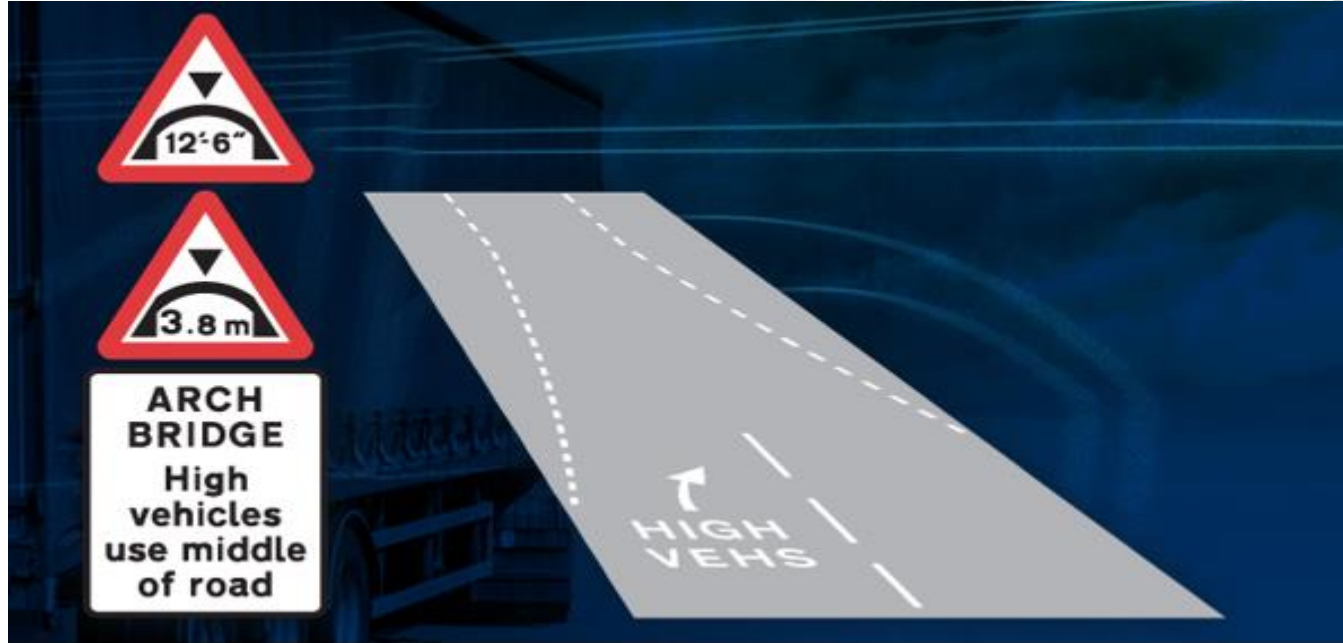
What do these signs mean?



What do these signs mean?



What do these signs mean?



ROUTE PLANNING



- ✓ Even if you know the route, take the time to check again.
- ✓ Make sure the route is right for the vehicle.
- ✓ Use HGV-specific Sat Navs and mapping tools.
- ✓ Carry a map and take a good look at the route before setting off.
- ✓ You're the professional and more likely than anyone else to notice potential problems.



SUMMARY

- ✓ Once out on the road, the only person you can rely on is yourself.
- ✓ Know what the road signs are telling you, don't make assumptions.
- ✓ Road signs at bridges show the maximum permitted vehicle height.
- ✓ Red circles prohibit, red triangles warn.
- ✓ At arched bridges, road markings indicate the safest path for high vehicles to take.
- ✓ Electronic signs warn of low bridges and offer alternative routes for high vehicles.

Consequences of a Bridge Strike



Serious injury or death



Damage to infrastructure



Road congestion and disruption of train services



Company could be prosecuted and suffer loss of reputation and business



Company would be liable for substantial costs



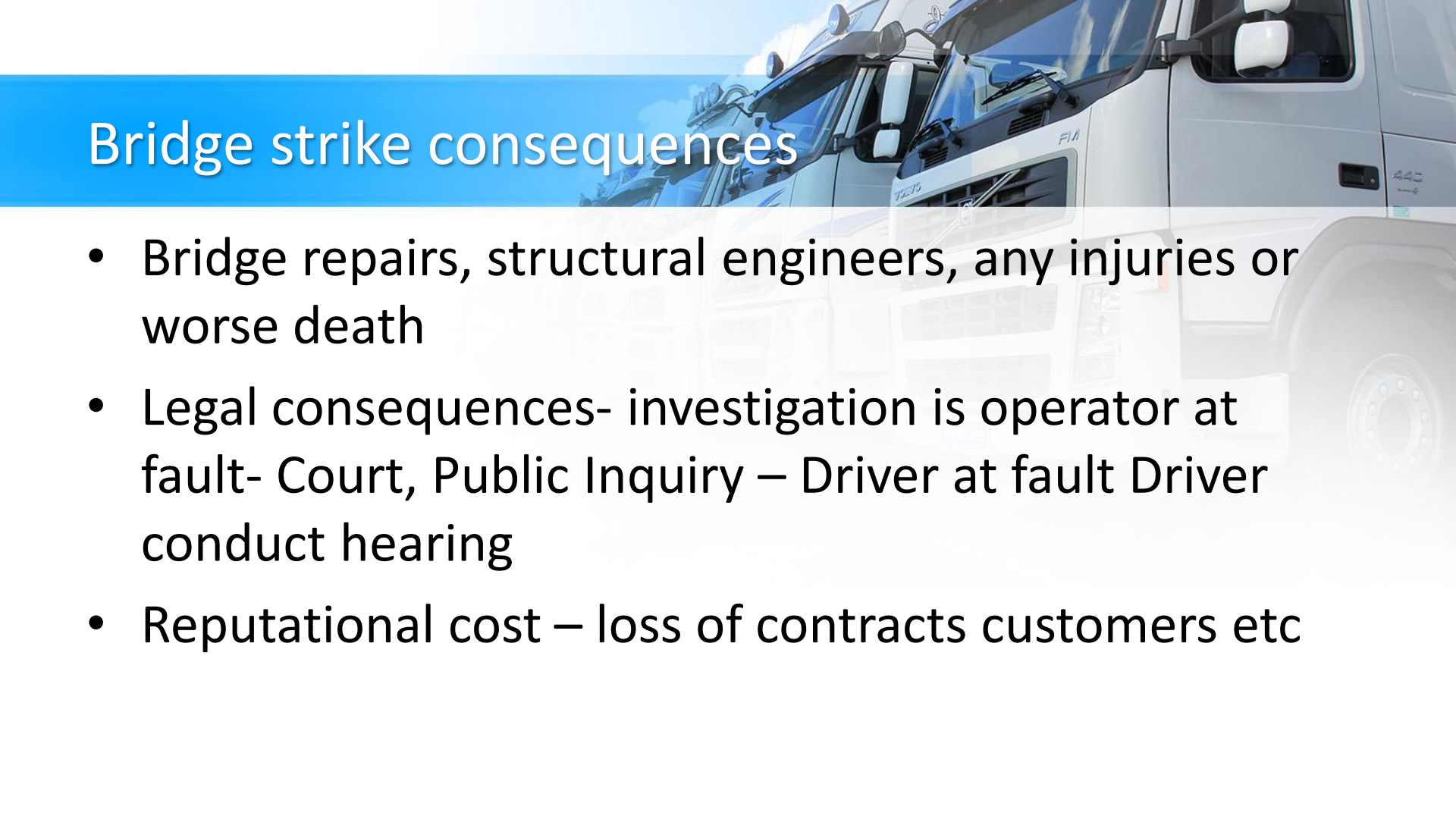
Driver could be prosecuted, fined, receive penalty points and lose job



Driver would lose credibility as a professional

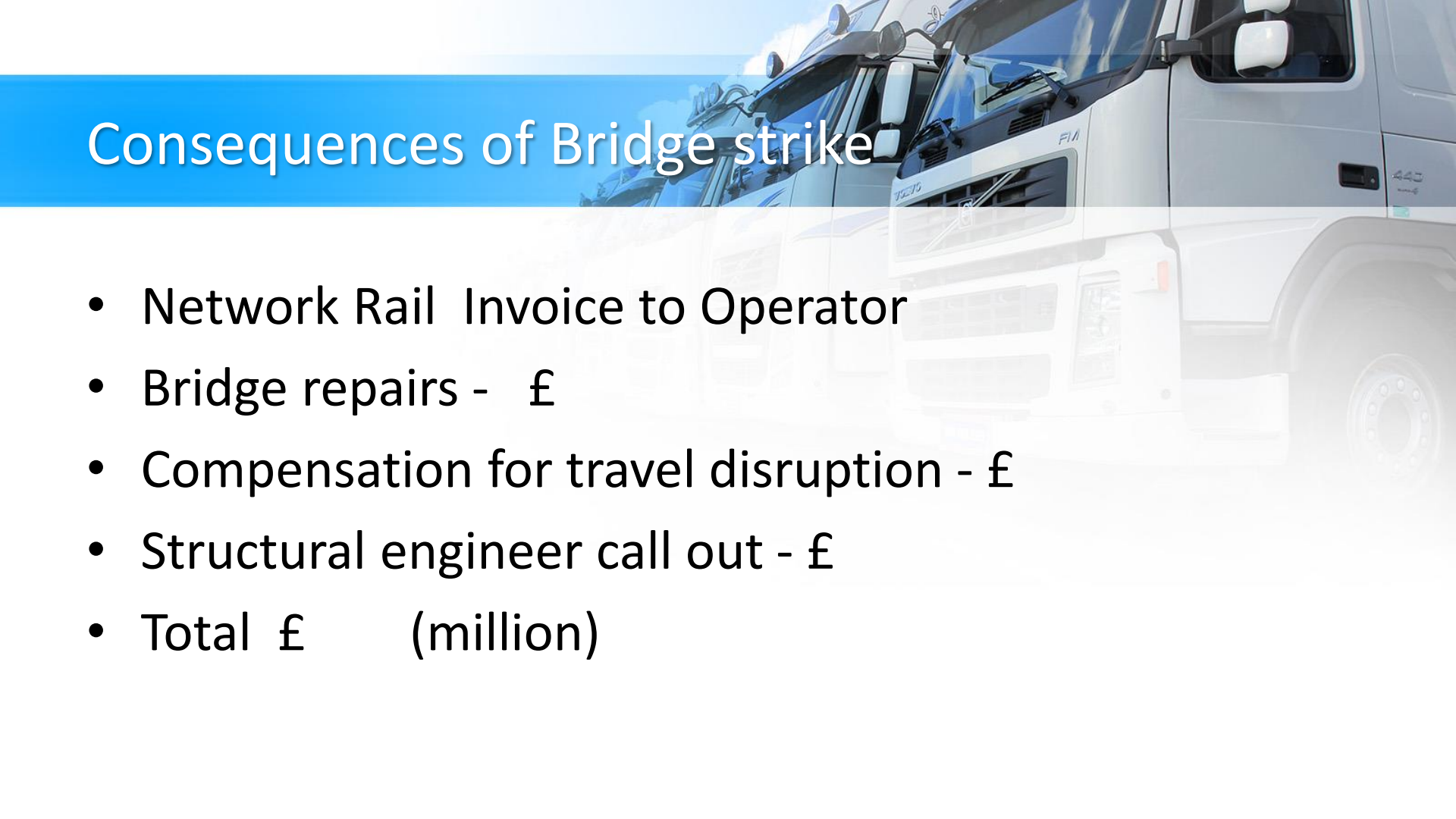


Bridge strike consequences

The background of the slide is a photograph of a multi-lane highway filled with white semi-trucks, likely during a traffic jam or strike. The trucks are viewed from a low angle, showing their cabs and mirrors. A semi-transparent blue banner is positioned at the top, containing the title in white text.

- Bridge repairs, structural engineers, any injuries or worse death
- Legal consequences- investigation is operator at fault- Court, Public Inquiry – Driver at fault Driver conduct hearing
- Reputational cost – loss of contracts customers etc

Consequences of Bridge strike



- Network Rail Invoice to Operator
- Bridge repairs - £
- Compensation for travel disruption - £
- Structural engineer call out - £
- Total £ (million)

A Public Inquiry



The Operator to account for the driver, who has hit the bridge and what measures were in place to prevent occurrence and what will be now?

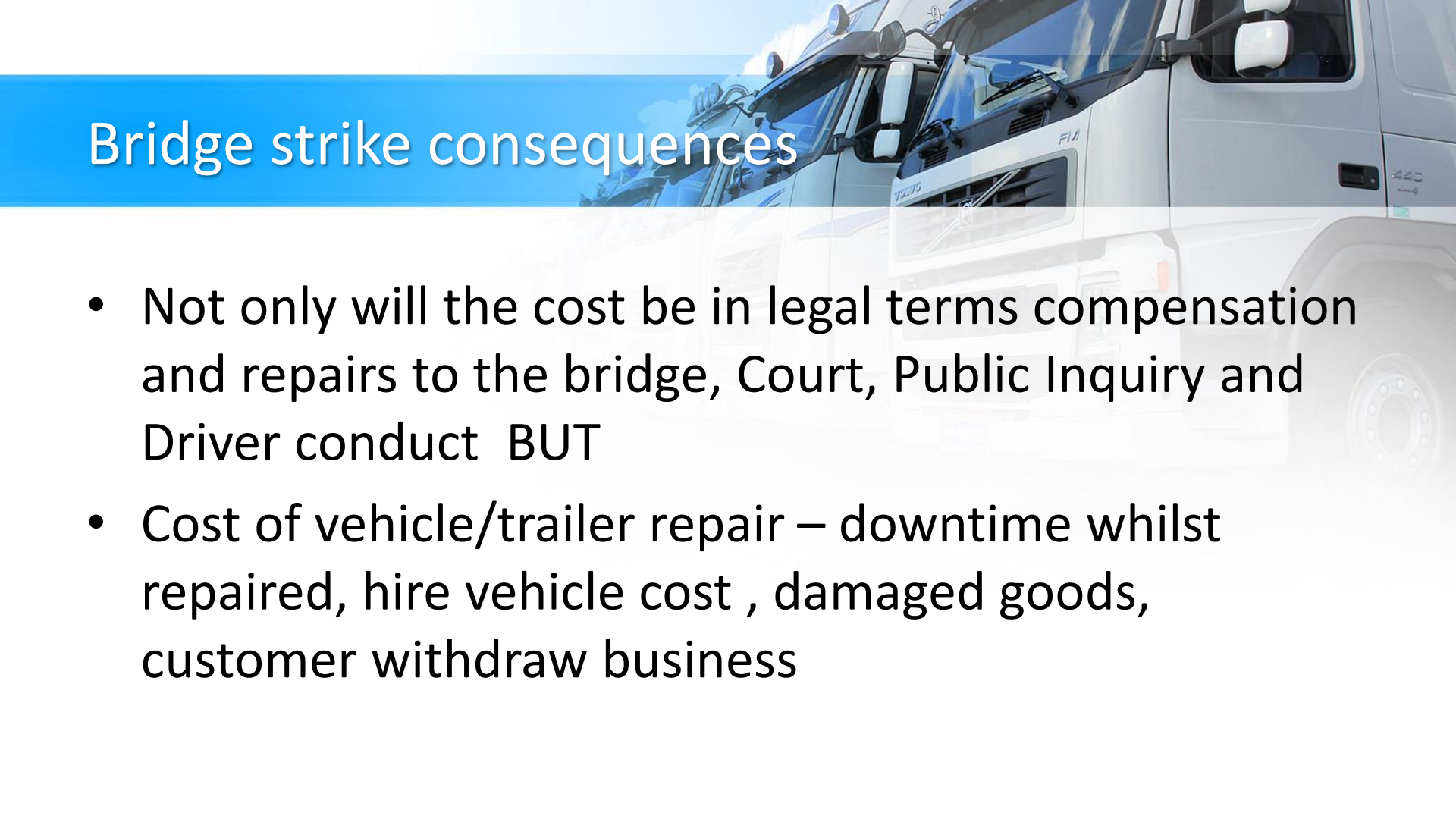
The driver to account for why he hit the bridge and the starting point for hitting the bridge is a 6-month suspension of their respective vocational licence

Bridge Strike consequences



- [Network Rail Bridge Strike Story \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Bridge strike consequences

A photograph of a line of white semi-trucks, likely on a bridge, with a blue sky and clouds in the background. The trucks are viewed from a low angle, showing their cabs and mirrors. The image is partially obscured by a blue banner at the top and a white area at the bottom where the text is located.

- Not only will the cost be in legal terms compensation and repairs to the bridge, Court, Public Inquiry and Driver conduct BUT
- Cost of vehicle/trailer repair – downtime whilst repaired, hire vehicle cost , damaged goods, customer withdraw business