

## Manual Flex-screen

The Flex-screens can be used following traffic accidents. It prevents rubbernecking that generates other accidents. This manual contains standard instructions to safely screen incidents with the use of a flex-screen.

It is very important to know that every accident is unique. Two key factors are the location and weather conditions meaning that every accident must be handled in a different way.

### Technical Details

Amount on trailer:	30 flex-screens
Amount on trailer:	31 galvanized support blocks
Dimensions 1 flex-screen:	210 x 250 centimeters
Weight flex-screen:	25,8 kilograms (1 piece)
Weight blocks:	28,6 kilograms (1 piece)
Gross weight trailer:	app. 2370 kilograms
Dimensions trailer (loaded):	400 x 200 x 283 centimeters (length x wide x height)



## The transport

The trailer needs to be loaded in a correct way, because of the weight partitioning. The correct way of loading the trailer is as it is delivered. The support blocks on the front of the trailer (see photograph above) are stored laterally for correct weight distribution. The remaining support blocks can be placed under the flex-screens (flat).

## The Flex-screen on Site

Release the lashings and unbolt the clamps in order to remove each screen and block. Lift the screens from the point of suspension by holding the middle rod (alone) or by holding both sides (2 persons).

To place or remove the flex-screen quickly, 1 person lifts and places the support blocks and the other person(s) place the flex-screen in the blocks. For a fast erection of the screen, work in a strict pattern. The process can be accelerated considerably by commitment of several people. For example, to create a 100-meter long screen in less than 10 minutes, 5 people are needed.

At increasing wind speeds, it is safer to handle the screen parts with 2 people and carry the screens by laying them flat ( safer ). Thus preventing screens blowing out of hands.

In Holland, some (waiting or passing) drivers get stressed or even become aggressive to the workers.

It's advised always to work with at least two or three people to deploy the screen and to be aware of unexpected reactions.

## Screening an incident

To screen a traffic accident and remove visibility from other lanes (especially the opposite direction), the correct angle for placing the screens is very important. After erecting the screen, it is important that all (or most) vehicles are behind the screen. The less people can see the less rubbernecking arises!



Every accident is different. There are several ways to place the screen, for example: straight or in a slanting line, an angle, in a circle or curved.

Always keep two key factors in mind; wind conditions and passing traffic!!

The length of the screen can be stipulated at every calamity separately. It is important to know that it is not required to build up the whole screen, just erect the length of the screen needed to prevent rubbernecking.

## Wind

At wind forces above 2 or 3 Beaufort, it is recommended to secure the screen. This can be done on barriers by using ropes and snap hooks.

The support block (see example on the right photograph below) contains several openings to place the screen parts in order to achieve more stability. Another possibility to create more stability is “parking” a vehicle on the support block (see left photograph below).

For security reasons, it is unsafe to erect the screen at wind speeds above 4 or 5 Beaufort. Especially when the wind is blowing perpendicular on the screen. When the wind (with above mentioned strength) blows in the length direction of the screen, however it should be possible to install the screen if necessary. Always consider the risks when placing the screen.



## Screening Locations nearby Barriers

Most times, the screen will be erected at the incident side. In certain circumstance, it can be necessary to place the screen at the other side of the barrier. Create a straight line from behind the barrier, with a slanting angle. This to avoid rubbernecking in the opposite direction (see photographs below). Most barriers have the possibility to assemble the screen with a rope. Take no risk, use this possibility.



Take the Flex-screen to the Incident Location, as a Precaution!

Rubbernecking traffic arises rapidly. Therefore, it is very important to screen an incident, when possible, in an early stage. Distraction to the traffic can cause other accidents and further delays. To avoid this, it is advised to bring the flex-screen to the incident location, if known in advance that a serious accident took place. There is no time for doubts.

The best is to build the screen in the desired length immediately. By taking the screen as a precaution to an accident site, you can decrease response time. This screen can also be used for screening a crime scene, accidents where technical research is needed or privacy must be guaranteed.



### Maintaining the Flex-screen

The correct use of the screen is very important. The support blocks may not stick out on the (open) traffic lane. It is recommendable to request a speed limit restriction because the passing volume trucks can largely influence the stability of the screen. A regular inspection of the screen during an accident is important, as well as checking the traffic measures like for example fallen keels.



### Storage of Flex-screens

An easy access to the trailer loaded with flex-screens is necessary to reduce response times.

### Safety Tips and Tricks for a fast Screening

In order to achieve the best use of this flex-screen, it is very important that the personnel exchanges experiences regarding the use of the flex-screen. This creates a learning process and will always apply to the corrective action on every new accident on a different location.

## Some Security Tips for Consideration

Always check if the trailer is properly attached to the pulling vehicle.

Check if the tire pressure is correct.

Always check if the lashings are correctly fastened.

Make sure the middle rod is on the outside; this guarantees that 1 man can lift the screen part.



## Placing Keels

Keels need to be placed on the outside of the screen in accordance with regulations, when for example a traffic lane must be free for movement. Always stay alert when you work along moving traffic!! Work always according a fixed pattern!



## Caution!

Always wear gloves during handling of the screen.

When you are working in a secured area, do not forget that car drivers can act strangely and unpredictably. Always try to see traffic coming so you can respond immediately to unsafe actions of drivers! Prevention is better than healing.

## Safe Handling!

Be careful during lifting the elements out of the support blocks. To safe lift the screens, always grab the stainless steel frames from the inside as shown on the right picture. Thus preventing injuring your hand (left picture)



## Damaging and Maintenance

Prevent damage to the screen and do not lift the screens on the flexible flaps! Immediately replace missing tyreps (spare box).

## Heavy Wind!

When a trauma- or police force helicopter is landing nearby the screen, it is proved that no screen will stand during this kind of wind. It will cause unnecessary damage. It is very important that all authorities on site are informed about this.

