

Local company owner engineers safety innovations

Jack Belmont's company, Belmont Enterprises Inc, of Tumwater, Washington hauls raw glass sheets, known in the industry as "stoce."

Stoce hauling normally requires drivers to climb ladders so that they can reach over the stoce to hook their straps into the stoce rack. This creates not only a fall hazard, but also the added bonus of being sliced open by the glass on the way down.

Jack recalls lying awake at night worrying about employees falling and getting cut on the glass.

During those sleepless nights, he engineered a solution to prevent drivers from needing to climb the load at all.

Jack's idea was to permanently attach straps to the stoce rack so they can be adjusted from the trailer bed. The solution — a swivel top, no ladder, tie down system. Now drivers can stand on the trailer and use an aluminum rake to put the guards in place and adjust the straps over the stoce. No more ladder climbing and no more arms hovering inches from sharp edges of glass.

This isn't the first solution he's engineered either. He began by adding cable to the tops of straps to prevent them from being cut if a driver forgets the guard and a third strap to better secure the glass. Both solutions are likely firsts in the industry and will virtually eliminate the possibility of a lost load of glass on our public highways.

Hazard prevention isn't impossible. Sometimes it just involves thinking outside the box and being willing to change from how things have always been done.

Is a hazard keeping you up at night? Share your concerns with your drivers or loaders. Together, you may just resolve it.



Jack Belmont, Owner, Belmont Enterprises Inc.



Old method of attaching straps by climbing ladder.



Innovation uses aluminum rake to adjust permanently affixed straps.



Same aluminum rake is used to place guards over stoce.