

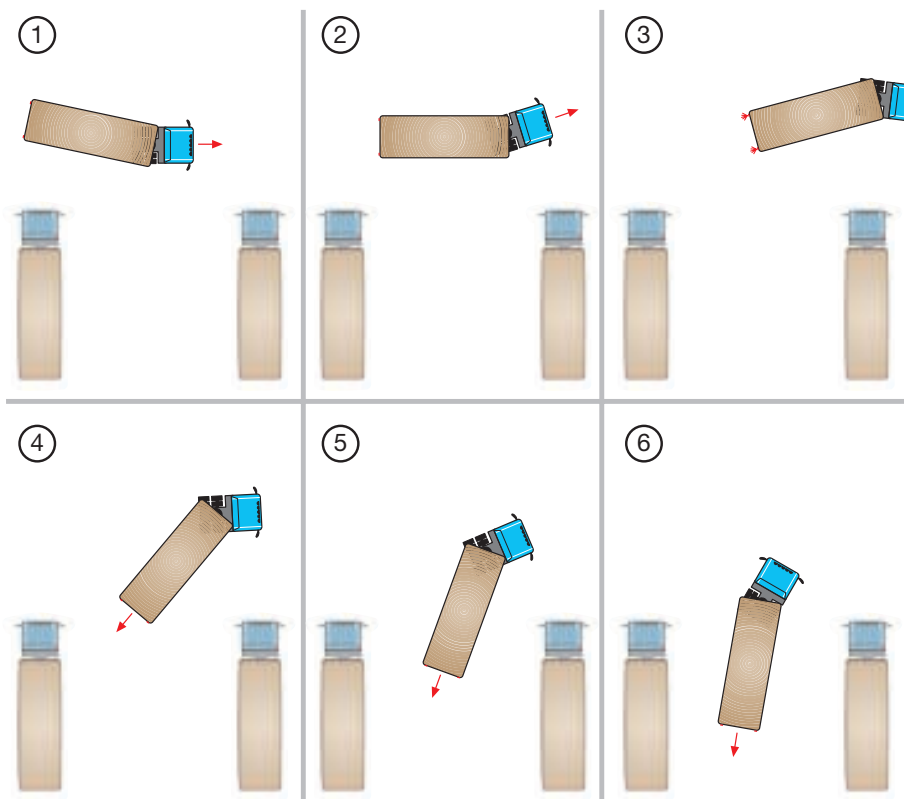
# Reversing into loading bay

## Check the area

If entering a yard that's unknown to you, it's wise to check the area before you drive in – if you're an inexperienced driver, this could help you to avoid getting yourself into a situation you're unable to get out of. If it looks tight, ask the staff how other drivers normally manoeuvre in. Check the width and length available to you. Make a note of any height restrictions and obstacles and be sure that you can actually fit into the space. Use all the room available, ask for assistance if you're unsure about reversing, and take it slowly – you'll do less damage if you hit something at a low speed! Some loading bays have guiding lines or metal lining-up posts on the floor to help you aim in the right direction. Most loading



bays have large rectangular blocks of hard rubber screwed to the wall to prevent damage to both the back of the trailer and the loading bay. You should also have rubber blocks on the rear of your trailer or unit. When reversing you should aim the rear of your trailer centrally between the rubber blocks on the loading bay



wall. Once hard up against the rubbers, pull forward an inch or two to prevent damage to your vehicle as it rises and falls during off-loading

## Reversing blindside

Reversing blindside is an extremely difficult manoeuvre even for an experienced driver, because your view in your nearside mirror is obscured by the trailer once it goes beyond a certain angle with the tractor unit.

Wherever possible you should approach a loading area from its right-hand side so that you can clearly see the offside (driver's side) of your trailer as you manoeuvre backwards, even if this means driving past the loading

area and turning your vehicle around.

If you have no other choice but to reverse in blindside, position your nearside (passenger side) wide-angled mirror outwards a little. This should give you an improved view of the side of your trailer and the area you're reversing into.

Check the area within which you have to manoeuvre, and make a note of the distances between you and any potential obstructions. Get help, even if only from a passer-by: ask them to stand in a safe place and shout if you're about to hit anything behind or to either side of you. Wind down your windows and move very slowly. If you're using a banksman, stop if he disappears from your view.

