

Ref:	ELP/SAI25/Cat-L
Issue:	2B
Date:	13/03/2026

ELP/SAI25/CAT-L

Electrical Safe System of Work (ESSoW) - Category L

List of approved Low Electrical Risk work activities

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1 Introduction

This form contains the Electrical Safe System of Work (ESSOW) Category L list of tasks required by NR/L3/ELP/SAI25/02.

2 List of approved 'Low Electrical Risk' work activities

ESSOW Category L Task		Applicable TRCS(s)	
1	Low level tasks carried out with a person standing at or below rail level. Includes infrastructure specific conditions: - standing surface is higher than rail level e.g. cutting areas, raised staging, etc. - areas of low wire height (<4,165mm) - person(s) climbing and being raised such that the standing surface is above rail level.	1	TRCS GA28
		2	Task specific controls identified below are also in in TRCS GA28
2	Accessing and working on signal heads. - Work is limited to routine inspection, maintenance and fault response.	1	TRCS GA28
		2	Task specific controls identified below are also in TRCS GA28
3	TRCS specific to On track plant (OTP): On-Tracking, Off-Tracking or Cross Tracking; and travelling under Live OLE.	1	TRCS GA28
		2	Task specific controls identified below are also in TRCS GA28
4	Work at platform areas in stations.	1	TRCS GA28
		2	Task specific controls identified below are also in TRCS GA28
5	Cutting back low level vegetation.	1	TRCS GA28
		2	Task specific controls identified below are also in TRCS GA28
6	Weed control using low pressure handheld spraying device.	1	TRCS GA28

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ESSOW Category L Task		Applicable TRCS(s)	
		2	Task specific controls identified below are also in TRCS GA28
7	Lowering and raising of fixed direction hinged lighting, CCTV or other similar columns.	1	TRCS GA28
		2	Task specific controls identified below are also in TRCS GA28
8	On Track Machines (OTM): Travelling and working under Live OLE.	1	Not applicable
		2	Task specific controls identified below will be included in the next update of TRCS GA28

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3 Approved Category L Activity Safety Requirements (Controls)

Activity	Controls
<p>Low level tasks carried out with a person standing at or below rail level - Electrical Safe System of Work Category L</p> <p>Infrastructure specific conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - standing surface is higher than rail level e.g. cutting areas, raised staging, etc. - areas of low wire height (<4,165mm) - person(s) climbing and being raised such that the standing surface is above rail level. 	<p>Common control measures</p> <p>Task(s) shall only be completed using hand tools or handheld powered tools.</p> <p>Task(s) shall only be completed where it is at or below head height.</p> <p>Task(s) shall only be completed where persons are standing at or below rail height. See also infrastructure specific conditions where this control cannot be met.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Any task carried out by a person from a standing surface above rail height shall only be permitted where a location specific electrical risk assessment, completed by an Electrical Risk Assessor (ERAS), is in place or where an electrical risk assessment is completed in accordance with the requirements of Module 2 of 'SAI25', and an Electrical Risk Assessment Form (ERAF) completed.</p> <p>Where the location specific risk assessment is carried out the specific electrical risk assessment shall confirm that the electrical risks can be controlled using some or all of the common control measures identified for this key risk.</p> <p>Location specific electrical risk assessments shall have a maximum validity period of 12 months.</p> <p>The location shall be checked to confirm that it is present on the Route's list of all locations with a standing surface above rail level where work is permitted to be carried out under ESSoW Category L.</p>

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Activity	Controls
<p>Accessing and working on signal heads - Electrical Safe System of Work Category L</p> <p>Work is limited to routine inspection, maintenance and fault response.</p>	<p>The signal structure shall be checked to confirm that it is present on the Route's list of signal locations where work is permitted to be carried out under ESSoW Category L.</p> <p>Persons accessing a signal structure shall hold an S&T authority to work.</p> <p>Access and egress to the signal structure shall be via the fixed signal ladder.</p> <p>Access to signal structures shall only be permitted where it has meshed screening of 76mm x 76mm or less, between the position of the task and all normally live exposed conductors (including auto transformer feeders).</p> <p>Prior to work starting the mesh screening shall be checked that it is in good mechanical condition and that bonding and earthing is in good condition.</p> <p>Where there is a Return Conductor (RC) that passes over, or adjacent to, a signal structure, and there is no mesh screening fitted or the fitted mesh is larger than 76mm x 76mm, access shall only be permitted where the RC is fitted with good condition insulation. If there is no insulation or the insulation is in poor condition an Overhead Line Permit (Form C) shall be issued prior to access and work, in accordance with SAI25.</p> <p>Persons, tools and equipment shall remain within the installed signal structure screening.</p> <p>Persons shall complete tasks at or below head height when positioned at the standing surface on top of a signalling structure.</p> <p>Task shall only be completed using hand tools or handheld powered tools.</p>

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Activity	Controls
<p>On track plant (OTP): On-tracking, off-tracking or cross-tracking; and travelling under Live OLE when in a possession - Electrical Safe System of Work Category L</p>	<p>OTP shall not be used under ESSoW Category L in areas of low wire height.</p> <p>Access to and egress from OTP shall be limited to the operating cab, designated covered safe walkways and safe seating areas only.</p> <p>With the exception of access to and egress from the operating cab or designated safe seating area forming part of the OTP, tasks shall only be completed where persons are standing at or below rail height.</p> <p>The use of tools and equipment shall not be permitted during access to or egress from OTP.</p> <p>Work covered by this ESSOW Category L task shall be limited to completing tasks at or below head height.</p> <p>Only product accepted OTP with an Engineering Conformance Certificate (ECC) permitting on, off, cross tracking and travelling under Live OLE shall be used as part of ESSOW Category L.</p> <p>The OTP shall not have any attachments.</p> <p>The OTP configuration shall be the same in its working mode to that in its travelling mode.</p> <p>Any load carried by the OTP shall remain within the profile of the machine.</p> <p>Where a specific item of OTP to be used at the time of work differs to that planned then the replacement OTP shall be checked to confirm that it meets the requirements set out in this list.</p> <p>Refer to NR/L3/ELP/SAI25 for the definitions of OTP, machines, attachments, etc.</p>

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Activity	Controls
<p>Work at platform areas in stations - Electrical Safe System of Work Category L</p>	<p>Task(s) shall only be completed using hand tools or handheld powered tools.</p> <p>Task(s) shall only be completed where it is at or below head height.</p> <p>Task(s) shall be limited to persons standing at or below platform height when working on the platform.</p> <p>Any work carried out by a person from a standing surface above platform height when working on a platform shall only be permitted where a location specific electrical risk assessment, completed by an ERAS, is in place or where an electrical risk assessment is completed in accordance with the requirements of Module 2 of 'SAI25' and an ERAF completed.</p> <p>Where there is no foreseeable risk of coming within 2.75 m of Live OLE then there is no requirement for a location specific electrical risk assessment and the task may be completed.</p> <p>Location specific electrical risk assessments, permitting tasks to be carried out in accordance with Category L requirements where persons will access a standing surface above platform level, when working on a platform, shall have a maximum validity period of 12 months.</p> <p>The location shall be checked to confirm that it is present on the Route's list of all locations with a standing surface above rail level where work is permitted to be carried out under ESSoW Category L.</p> <p>Work on low voltage electrical systems and equipment at stations are excluded from this low electrical risk activity. A location specific electrical risk assessment shall be completed to determine whether an earthed isolation and OLP is required because of possible interference with station bonding arrangements and traction bonding arrangements.</p>

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Activity	Controls
Cutting back low level vegetation - Electrical Safe System of Work Category L	<p>Task(s) shall only be completed using hand tools or handheld powered tools.</p> <p>Task(s) shall only be completed where it is at or below head height.</p> <p>The vegetation management activities shall be limited to the cutting of low level vegetation with there being no foreseeable risk of the vegetation entering the 2.75 metre Zone of Live OLE when being cut or falling.</p> <p>Task(s) shall only be completed where persons are standing at or below rail height.</p>
Weed control using low pressure handheld spraying device - Electrical Safe System of Work Category L	<p>Task(s) shall only be completed using hand tools or hand held powered tools.</p> <p>Task(s) shall only be completed where it is at or below head height.</p> <p>The spray jet associated with low pressure weed control sprayer shall be directed so that the jet of sprayed liquid remains at or below head height.</p> <p>Task(s) shall only be completed where persons are standing at or below rail height.</p>

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Activity	Controls
Lowering and raising of fixed direction hinged lighting, CCTV or other similar columns - Electrical Safe System of Work Category L	<p>Task(s) shall only be completed using hand tools or hand held powered tools.</p> <p>Task(s) shall only be completed where it is at or below head height.</p> <p>The task shall be limited to raising and lowering fixed hinged columns where there is no foreseeable risk of the raising or lowering envelope resulting in encroachment within 600mm of Live OLE.</p> <p>Task(s) shall be limited to persons standing at or below platform height when working on a railway station platform.</p> <p>With the exception of railway station platforms, persons shall only carry out this task where the standing surface is at or below rail height.</p>

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Activity	Controls
<p>On track machines (OTM): Travelling and working under Live OLE when in a possession - Electrical Safe System of Work Category L (Part 1 of 2)</p>	<p>Limitations shown on the OTM's Product Acceptance (PA) Certificate or Engineering Conformance Certificate (ECC) shall be adhered to.</p> <p>OTM shall have a maximum height not exceeding W6a gauge.</p> <p>OTM, when working, shall have a height configuration that is the same in its working mode to that in its travelling mode.</p> <p>OTM shall not be used under ESSOW Category L where the clearance from the OTM to Live conductors is less than 270mm or that specified in the ECC, whichever is the greater.</p> <p>Access to and egress from the OTM shall only be via approved routes. Movement of persons on the OTM shall be limited to the operating cab, covered areas, covered walkways and designated covered safe seating/working areas only.</p> <p>No part of a person, tool, material or equipment shall extend beyond the warning line (cant line). All other persons working with the OTM shall be standing at or below rail height.</p> <p>The use of tools and equipment shall not be permitted during access to or egress from OTM.</p> <p>OTM used as part of ESSOW Category L shall be limited to machines that do not have any attachments or mechanisms that when in working mode could enter the Live Zone (600mm / 2 feet of OLE).</p> <p>The load carried by OTM shall remain within the profile of the machine.</p> <p>Work covered by this ESSOW Category L task shall be limited to the use of hand tools and handheld powered tools only.</p> <p>See also Part 2 below.</p>

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Activity	Controls
<p>On track machines (OTM): Travelling and working under Live OLE when in a possession - Electrical Safe System of Work Category L – Continued</p> <p>(Part 2 of 2)</p>	<p>Part 2</p> <p>Where a specific machine to be used to carry out the work differs from the specific machine considered during the planning of the work, the person responsible for implementing the SSOW shall check and confirm that the replacement machine satisfies the requirements of the relevant category L list control measures.</p> <p>Damaged bonds shall be reported to the person in charge and staff advised to keep clear until repairs are carried out by persons holding the correct competences.</p>

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