

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident

Withdrawal of black conductor rail shield

Issued to: All staff and contractors using conductor rail shields on third rail electrified lines

Ref: NRA 15/07

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Location: National

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Withdrawn black conductor rail shield

Overview

Following incidents involving accidental contact with the live conductor rail, the design of the insulating conductor rail shield was changed to one that was more robust, could be overlapped lengthways to provide greater protection, and which by the use of rubber flaps, could provide full 360° protection.

The black conductor rail shield (057/049022) which only provides protection against inadvertent contact with three sides of the conductor rail remained in use simply because it enjoys Grandfather Rights,

The yellow Vortok conductor rail shield, PADS Cat. No. 0057/049437, protects against these risks by providing rubber flaps that close beneath the conductor rail when the shield is applied, thus providing a greater degree of safety for tasks where it is not practicable to isolate the conductor rail (see NR/L3/MTC/EP0152).

This shield is now available in a version that can be applied over all types of conductor rail insulators.

There only one task for which the yellow Vortok shield may be impractical, for which reason an alternative solution is being developed.

Until this work has been completed, the black conductor rail shield may only be used for the task listed below **and** only where a TNC against the requirement in NR/L3/MTC/EP0152 to use a yellow Vortok conductor rail shield is in place.

Immediate action required

Product Acceptance for the black conductor rail shield (057/049022) is revoked from 31 October 2015.

- The first preference must always be to undertake the task with the conductor rail isolated where it is practicable to do so. Details are contained in NR/L3/MTC/EP0152 and the relevant [Key Point Card](#).
- Where risk assessment shows that it is not practicable to undertake the work under an isolation, a conductor rail shield must be used.
- The black conductor rail shield may only be used where a TNC against the requirement in NR/L3/MTC/EP0152 to use a yellow Vortok conductor rail shield is in place **and** then only for gauging and detection checks on HW and M3 type point operation equipment where the conductor rail is carried through on the same side as the point machine.
- Any TNC granted will be for a maximum of 6 months to allow the alternative solution to be deployed.