

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident

Failure of Dorman integrated lightweight signal winch

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors

Ref: NRA 16/01

Date of issue: 10/03/2016

Location: East West Project, IP Central

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Overview

Whilst lowering a Dorman integrated lightweight (hinged) signal that weighed approximately 125kg the winch failed and the signal fell.

Dorman signals are in use in a number of areas on the Network Rail infrastructure.

Immediate action required

- Dorman integrated lightweight signal lifting winches must be retested and recertified against the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER).
- Dorman integrated lightweight signal lifting winches must not be used until they have been recertified.
- Any Dorman integrated lightweight signal lifting winch tested after 1 December 2015 will be recertified free of charge by Unipart Dorman's LOLER representative, Worklift.
- Prior to use, operators must ensure that the cable is wound correctly on the cable drum, as in the photo above. Incorrectly wound cable will result in slack in the cable which may lead to the signal falling.
- Winch operation must cease if the cable loses the correct form. Release of slack cable during winch use will almost certainly damage the cable - it must then be quarantined.
- To maintain the correct rope lay tension on a stored winch drum, its hook must be attached to the tie rod attachment pin on the frame.

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