

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident

Manual handling of turnout (frog) rail grinder

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

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Location: Cardiff Delivery Unit

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Overview

ORR has issued a Prohibition Notice preventing the Geismar MC3 Turnout Grinder from being lifted and carried by two people.

The machine weighs 110 kg.

The prohibition does not prevent use of the machine or it being moved by two people in rail mounted mode.

A specific risk assessment is being carried out by a small team including expertise from Trade Unions and our Ergonomics team.

The results of this risk assessment will be communicated separately and any modifications required to the machine will be discussed with the manufacturer.

Immediate action required

- Manual handling of the MC3 Turnout Grinder is prohibited with immediate effect unless four or more staff are conducting the lift.
- Even with a bigger lift team, use of the grinder must be planned to consider the hierarchy in the Manual Handling Operations Regulations:
 1. avoid manual handling operations so far as is reasonably practicable; use mechanical lifting aids such as a vehicle tail lift and avoid carrying long distances;
 2. assess any manual handling operations that cannot be avoided; and
 3. reduce the risk of injury so far as is reasonably practicable.

Where a four person manual lift is the only option it must be noted that at present the grinder is not specifically designed for four person lifting so good team lifting techniques will be required.

Consider how the principles set out above apply to other moveable plant such as generators, other grinders and fishplate wrenches that are all heavy items of plant. A useful list is found [here](#).

Your local workforce safety advisor or safety specialist can help you plan this work safely.