

Collisions within possessions

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

Ref: NRA 17/07

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Location: Logan, East Ayrshire

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Overview

There has been a number of high profile collisions in possessions in recent years. The RAIB issued an Urgent Safety Advice following the incident at Logan on 1 August 2015, which advised that Network Rail and industry partners should work together to reduce collision risk in possessions.

A cross industry group was formulated, which has already made a number of improvements in managing the risk. This Safety Advice is specific to one part of the overall package of changes.

Two recurring significant causes of these incidents has been sub-standard communications and inappropriate speed control of the train.

Sub-standard instructions contributed to drivers incorrectly assuming the line ahead was clear to a specific point and that up to 40mph was a safe speed to travel.

Rule Book Module T3 and Handbooks 9, 11, 12 and 15 are being updated in December 2017, when the maximum permitted speed in possessions is reduced from 40mph to 25mph.

A complete brief, including audio on these Rule Book and Hand Book changes has been added to Safety Central with the title [Possession Speed Changes Brief](#).

Immediate action required

- All staff who are involved in planning and delivering work within possessions must receive this [brief](#).
- All those with ES/SWL or PICOP competencies must record receiving this brief as a Competence Management Event in Sentinel. Instructions on how to do this are contained within the briefing materials.
- This briefing should be delivered by the most appropriate means, whether this is part of any annual Rule Book update brief, annual capability conversation, safety hour discussion, etc..
- Any ES/SWL or PICOP who has not had the briefing recorded in Sentinel by 15 January 2018 will have their ES/SWL and/or PICOP competence temporarily suspended, until such times the briefing is recorded.

Copies of Safety Advice are available on [Safety Central](#).