

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident



Sheffield testing irregularity

Issued to: **Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and accredited contractors**

Ref: NRA20-16

Date of issue: 23/12/2020

Location: Sheffield, Eastern Region

Contact: Adam Lowery, Regional Engineer (S&T), Eastern Region

Overview

On 11th November 2020 a derailment occurred at Sheffield leading to a requirement to plain-line two sets of points.

During the work to plain-line the points on 17th November 2020, signalling alterations were made which introduced a wrong-side failure into the system which could have allowed the signaller to set conflicting moves. These alterations were commissioned into use introducing risk of a train collision at the junction before being discovered and safely mitigated.

The incident is subject to investigation to establish the sequence of events that led up to the unsafe condition and any underlying causes.

This follows from a number of recent signalling engineering irregularities and, as a result, the following discussion points are to be considered.

Discussion Points

- Are design and testing methodologies appropriate for the required modifications?
- Has the work been planned correctly to allow all testing activities to be fully completed?
- Has consideration been given to time pressures and gaining assurance that everyone involved in the work has a clear understanding of what is expected?

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