

RRV passing onto Level Crossing

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

Ref: NRB 18/17

Date of issue: 29/11/2018

Location: Llantrisant (Wales)

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Overview

On Monday 19th November a road rail vehicle (RRV) and trailers in a possession passed over Llantrisant West level crossing without authority or the crossing being under local control.

The machine was travelling in a worksite on the Down Main from an access point to the actual location of the works.

Immediate investigations have identified the following underlying causes:

- Late change (on the night) of individual planned to be Engineering Supervisor. Out of date Sentinel validity (medical had expired 23/08/18)
- The replacement Engineering Supervisor was already fully committed to other planned activities in the possession/ worksite
- Mis-communication between Machine Controller and Engineering Supervisor regarding the location the RRV was planned to work
- Machine Controller failed to control the RRV movement sufficiently on the approach to Llantrisant West LC

Immediate actions already taken:

- Engineering Supervisor and Machine Controller stood down from safety critical duties pending investigation outcome
- IMDM brief to all section managers/ engineers mandating the checking of sentinel cards by the COSS/ ES at the start of EVERY shift.

A review of the similar recent incident at Rhoose Level crossing has identified two common themes:

1. Late change of key safety critical personnel (and how we control the associated risks of this)
2. A RRV passing over a level crossing without authority

Discussion Points

While we are investigating the incident please discuss the following with your team:

- How do we manage late changes to personnel? (Escalation process / evaluation of workload etc)?
- How can we make sure that every Sentinel card is checked at the start of every shift?
- How does the [Think Risk campaign](#) apply in this context?
- How well do you understand Handbook 15 (Duties of the Machine Controller (MC) and On Track Plant Operator)?
- What speeds are rail vehicles permitted to travel at in work sites or possessions?
- What is the process for passing a rail vehicle over fixed obstacles (level crossings / points etc)

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