

Assessing safe systems of work when planning the use of equipment and Lookouts warning in Infrastructure Projects

Endorsement and Authorisation

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1.0 Scope

This procedure applies to all work planned and delivered in Infrastructure Projects (IP).

It introduces and defines a procedure for contractors, employees and their delegated representatives to follow in order to comply with the specific requirements of IP in implementing Network Rail Standard NR/L2/OHS/019 and RSSB Railway Group Standard Rule Book.

2.0 Purpose

This document requires the implementation of procedures and processes that will provide assurance that suppliers working for Network Rail Infrastructure Projects have undertaken a thorough assessment to achieve compliance to the hierarchy within NR/L2/OHS/019 when planning work on or near the line.

The intention of this procedure is to maximise the use of higher levels of protection or high reliability warning systems for track workers and minimise the use of lookout warning.

3.0 References

Documents related to this document are:

- a) NR/L2/OHS/019 Safety of People Working on or Near the Line (IP535)
- b) RSSB Railway Group Standard Rule Book

4.0 Procedure for utilising equipment or lookout warning

The use of Safe Systems of Work (SSOW) using equipment warning or SSOW using Lookouts; known as “Red Zone Working” in NR/L2/OHS/019 are required to be brought to the attention of the IP Project Director or Route Delivery Director and acknowledged that a SSOW higher in the hierarchy is not suitable for the proposed work.

All contractors planning to undertake work on or near the line utilising a SSOW comprising equipment warning or lookouts must:

- a) Have an assessment and review of the SSOW approved by an operational director within their own organisation who is not directly associated with the planned work;
- b) Submit this assessment at least seven working days prior to the proposed work date to the relevant Network Rail Project Manager;
- c) Receive written acceptance of the SSOW by the Network Rail Project Director / Route Delivery Director at least 48 hours before the commencement of the work.

5.0 Access to worksites

The above process (4.0) does not apply to access and egress arrangements that require the utilisation of an SSOW using equipment warning or lookouts.

6.0 Emergency Work

Emergency work arises that require the implementation of a SSOW using equipment warning or lookouts that prevent the adherence to the seven day and 48 hour requirement (outlined in Section 4.0) still require contractors to receive written acceptance of the SSOW by Network Rail Project Director before the SSOW can be used.

7.0 Assurance (monitor and review)

Project Managers will notify the S&SD function of all successful applications for Red Zone Working using equipment and lookout SSOW. The S&SD Function will maintain a register of successful applications.

An audit programme will be implemented by the S&SD function to assure that the “Red Zone” SSOW are being adequately implemented when these arrangements are invoked and the highest systems in the SSOW hierarchy are being achieved.