



Duplex Comms and Lifesaving Rule on Hands Free Equipment

The newly refreshed Life Saving Rule, “**Never use a hand-held or hands-free phone, or programme any other mobile device, while driving**” applies to a phone use whilst driving or to programming a device whilst driving, it **does not** apply to using a safety communications device such as DECT-COM.

The use of duplex Comms is mandated for use with OTP/OTM. The Plant Manual text states:

“Where personnel are required to undertake activities involving on-track machines or on-track plant on or about Network Rail managed infrastructure, mobile voice communication systems shall be provided for the Machine Controller and Machine Operator. Any such system shall be a full digital duplex communication system and as a minimum provide instant simultaneous communications, voice clarity, durability, and enhanced weatherproofing of the equipment.

The communication system shall meet applicable EMC and other environmental requirements of Network Rail standards and other applicable mandatory or statutory requirements as appropriate.

NOTE Approved equipment which meets these requirements is the 3M manufactured Peltor DECT Com and Peltor Dect-Com II.”

3M's Peltor DECT equipment is Network Rail's recommended product.

Duplex Comms is seen by the ORR as PPE.

On Safety Central there is a host of information on use of this vital safety equipment. <http://www.safety.networkrail.co.uk/On-site-Solutions/OTP-Safety/RRV-headsets>
Also on this page a short film showing the personal impact of not using Duplex Comms can be viewed.

Use of Duplex Comms for OTP/OTM is not a choice. If it is not in place work cannot start.

There is **no** conflict with the driving Lifesaving Rule. Duplex Comms supports our Working with Moving Equipment life saving rule, and helps maintain appropriate exclusion zones around plant. It is there to stop life changing injuries and death so everyone gets home safe everyday.

For more information or clarity please contact John Sidebotham who is part of the RRV Safety Improvement Team john.sidebotham@networkrail.co.uk