



**This Letter is for the attention of:  
Network Rail Staff, Principal Contractors and  
Contractors who deploy OTP / Construction plant for  
lifting duties**

Network Rail  
The Quadrant: MK,  
Elder Gate,  
Milton Keynes,  
MK9 1EN

December 2013

## **RE: Planning of Lifting Operations**

Dear Colleagues

This Communication supersedes all other communications relating to the Lift Planning TNC (13389) that is currently in place.

In April 2013 Network Rail issued an industry wide Temporary Non-compliance (TNC 13389) against the current competence for Lift Planning. The purpose of the TNC was to help transition the Industry to the New Sentinel Lift Planning Competence.

This Sentinel competence has been designed to bring us into complete alignment with the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998.

We are now approaching the TNC expiry date of 01 January 2014 and it has been identified that some parts of the Industry (including parts of Network Rail) will not be ready for the TNC closure. This communication is intended to clarify the position of Network Rail and provide guidance on actions the Industry is required to take to address any risks.

However, if you **will** have sufficient Sentinel Competent Lift Planners to fulfil your work bank, you are not required to take any further action.

### **TNC Expiry Notification**

Following the expiry of the Lift Planning TNC on 01 January 2014, there **will not** be any further National TNC Extensions and anyone who holds the Old (pre-sentinel) Lift Planning Competence **will not** be allowed to create or amend Lift Plans.

Any parts of the Industry that will not have achieved the minimum number of Lift Planners to fulfil their work bank requirements by 01 January 2014 may wish to submit an individual TNC application to the Professional Head of Plant & TR+S. If the TNC is granted, this will allow

Lifting Operations to continue under the following concession. This concession will be limited to a period from 01 January 2014 to 31 March 2014.

### **Concessions granted under an individual TNC (if approved)**

- Individuals who have completed the new Sentinel Lift Planner Training Course and are at the Mentoring Stage, will be allowed to create and amend Lift Plans from 01 Jan 2014 to 31 March 2014.

### **Please note:**

- Individuals who have not undergone the new Sentinel Lift Planner Training and hold the Old (pre-Sentinel) Lift Planning Competence, will no longer be able to create or amend Lift Plans as of 01 Jan 2014.
- Crane Controllers will no longer be able to create or amend Lift Plans as of 01 Jan 2014 if they do not hold the new Sentinel Lift Planner Competence. Therefore, adequate on-call arrangements should be put in place.

### **What do you need to do now?**

If you **will not** have sufficient Sentinel Competent Lift Planners by 01 Jan 2014, you may wish to submit an individual TNC application. The TNC application should detail how you will get to the minimum number of Competent Lift Planners necessary to meet your work bank within the TNC concession date of 31 March 2014. During the concession period, we would recommend that complex Lifts are planned by fully Competent Sentinel Lift Planners where possible or secondary review and sign off is used.

TNC Submissions should include the following details:

### **For Principal Contractors and POL Holders**

- A detailed action plan to meet compliance
- Details on how you will be mitigating risks where you will have a shortage in staff to deliver your work bank requirements

## **For Network Rail**

- Names of candidates that you need to Train and Mentor to achieve the minimum number of Lift Planners
- Details of the minimum number of Lift Planners you require to meet your work bank
- Details of the average number of Lift Plans you produce on a weekly basis
- Details of the forecast work bank from Jan to Mar 2014
- Any support arrangements you have agreed from other DUs or if you plan on buying in the competency
- On-call Arrangements for out of hours cover to manage Lift Plan Amendments as a result of Crane Controllers no longer being able to create or amend Lift Plans
- Plans for cascade briefing to all Crane Controllers before 31 December 2013 (Cessation of Site Amendments and Out of Hours Arrangements)
- Details on how Lift Planning needs will be fulfilled where Delivery Units and Works Delivery Organisations have zero competent lift planners and zero lift planners at the mentoring stage

### **TNC Submission Deadline**

All TNC submissions must be submitted via Tracker by midday, 24<sup>th</sup> December 2013 to the Professional Head of Plant & TR+S at Network Rail. Failure to meet this deadline will mean your TNC will not be reviewed before the current TNC expires and if you continue to plan and execute lifts with people who do not hold the new Sentinel Lift Planning Competence then you will be in breach of the Lift Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (LOLER) 1998.

Yours faithfully

**James Allenden CEng FIMechE**  
**Professional Head of Plant & T+RS, Network Rail**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the definition of the “Mentoring Stage”?

The period where an individual has successfully completed the Sentinel Lift Planner Training course and is embarking on mentorship, so therefore has not yet been signed off as fully competent as mentorship is not yet complete.

### 2. Can we use the Old (pre-sentinel) Lift Planning Competence after 01 Jan 2014?

No.

### 3. Will a National TNC Extension be granted?

No.

### 4. Who does the new Sentinel Lift Planning Competence affect?

Anyone who wants to plan, supervise or undertake Lifting Operations with OTP, on or about the Railway.

### 5. How do I get training in the new Sentinel Lift Planning Competence?

- Network Rail staff should request training through their Line Manager.
- Principal Contractors and POL Holders should contact an approved Sentinel Lift Plan Trainer for training.

### 6. Does the new Sentinel Lift Planning Competence apply to the use of Kirow Cranes?

No, these are covered under separate competence arrangements

### 7. Does the new Sentinel Lift Planning Competence apply if an RRV is involved with undertaking a lift in road mode off the track whilst working on Network Rail Infrastructure?

Yes.

### 8. Does the new Sentinel Lift Planning Competence apply if an RRV is involved with undertaking a lift in road mode off the track, but the lift involves lifting a trailer on to the track?

Yes.

- 9. Does the new Sentinel Lift Planning Competence apply if using Civils plant under Principal Contractor control for activities like “Lifting a bridge under a possession” or “Unloading materials away from the track” whilst working with NR?**

No, the Principal Contractors will have their own arrangements for complying with LOLER.

- 10. Does the new Sentinel Lift Planning Competence apply if a Lift is being contracted in to carry out work on the NR Infrastructure?**

Yes, when using On Track Plant.