



The Quadrant
3rd Floor, Caldecotte
Elder Gate
Milton Keynes
MK9 1EN

This Letter is for the attention of all Network Rail Principal Contractors

10th December 2014

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: Safe Systems of Work (SSOW) Utilising Line Blockages

The following letter is being issued in response to a number of very serious incidents where the procedure for setting up SSOW utilising line blockages has failed.

As you will be aware employers are required under Section 2 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare at work of all their employees. As you know, Handbook 8 of rulebook GE/RT8000/HB8 requires additional protection where the works affect the safety of the line. The purpose of this letter is to confirm that, where it is reasonably practicable to do so, we would expect additional protection to be used to protect track workers.

There may be occasions where the use of additional protection is not desirable as setting up this protection may import additional risk into the work activity. When this is the case this needs to be documented through a suitable and sufficient risk assessment and agreed with the relevant Network Rail project team before works commence.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss any concerns you may have regarding the content of this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roan Willmore".

Roan Willmore
Director, Safety & Sustainable Development
Infrastructure Projects