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Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

Level Crossing Inspections



Sighting distances are a significant factor in the safety of user worked crossings (UWCs), bridleway and footpath level crossings. This bulletin reminds staff that insufficient sighting distances increase the risks to the users of such crossings.

Where telephones are present at UWCs, bridleway and footpath level crossings they should be accompanied by signage instructing on their correct use. These instructions detail when the telephone should be used, and by who, e.g. by drivers of large, long or slow moving vehicles.

Pedestrians are not required or expected to use the telephones at UWCs, bridleway and footpath level crossings unless special signs have been erected to instruct ALL users – including pedestrians – to use the telephones before crossing.

Action to be taken

All staff undertaking level crossing inspections at UWCs, bridleway and footpath level crossings are instructed that:

- Insufficient sighting shall always be treated as a high priority, acted upon and reported (incl. to the O&CS Operations Risk Control Co-ordinator).
- Due consideration shall be given to obstructions that restrict sighting of trains (e.g. posts, scrap, vegetation, redundant structures, equipment cabinets, signage), the presence of such obstructions shall be recorded and where relatively straightforward to remove, this work shall be undertaken as a priority.
- When assessing the risk arising from insufficient sighting distances, telephones shall be
 - a) considered only for those users covered by the instructions on the signage at the crossing
 - b) disregarded for all other users.

Specifically:

- The existence of telephones at UWCs, bridleway and footpath level crossings shall be disregarded when considering pedestrian users unless special signs have been erected to instruct ALL users to use the telephones before crossing.

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