

No: IGS 248

## Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

### Portable Hydraulic Equipment Safety

#### For the attention of:

All staff working with and operators of portable hydraulic equipment.

#### Background:

A recent incident involving a Permaquip Rail Gap Adjuster, where hydraulic fluid was unexpectedly released with the potential to cause serious injury, has highlighted the potential risks of working with portable hydraulic equipment.



*If in doubt refer to the relevant operator instruction manuals and Network Rail training courses material for guidance on handling, transporting and operating items of portable equipment.*

**Action to be taken :** All operators of portable hydraulic equipment are reminded;

1. To refer to the pre-use checklist provided by the Manufacturers which specifies the maximum working pressure of all components.
2. To carry out the operator pre-use checks to identify any concerns with the item of plant.
3. Note: Some of the key areas for users to visually inspect are:
  - HYDRAULIC HOSE: Inspect for wear, chaffing, cuts, splits and leaks;
  - SWAGED FITTINGS: Inspect for leaks, wear and security to hose ends;
  - COUPLINGS: Inspect for leaks, wear, and security of hose ends;
  - RAMS & SEALS: Inspect for leaks, damage to rods and cylinders.

***Correct handling and inspection by operators of hydraulic components will reduce premature failure and risk of injury from high pressure oil systems. Any defective or damaged equipment should not be used; attach a label and put into quarantine.***

**DO NOT LIFT, PULL, DRAG OR CARRY EQUIPMENT BY THE HOSE**

Issued by: Paul Conway, Principle Engineer (Plant) paul.conway@networkrail.co.uk