

10th January 2008

Appendix A - 3350/164

Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

Glen Garry RRV Near miss - 5th December 2007

Target audience:

Machine Controllers, Crane Controllers, Engineering Supervisors, Project Managers. Area Mobile Plant Engineers (AMPE) and Network Rail staff holding OTP operator competency – NR Maintenance

Description of Incident

A near miss incident occurred on the 5th December 2007 during a T3 possession of the Highland main line between Blair Atholl and Dalwhinnie. The incident involved a 'high rail' road/rail excavator towing a laden eight tonne trailer. The vehicle was travelling down a 1:70 gradient in heavy rain, and was unable to stop when it approached a worksite where another RRV was in operation and a minor collision occurred

A more serious collision was avoided by prompt warnings from a member of site staff which allowed the static RRV operator to take appropriate action.

A brake test of the RRV was undertaken and the brake performance was found to be working correctly. Weather conditions at the time were very poor (heavy rain + wind), the rail head at the approach to the worksite was wet and may have been contaminated at the time.

The RAIB (Rail Accident and Investigation Branch) have issued a Urgent Safety Advice note in relation to this incident and the key issues are summarised below

Actions to be taken

When doing the risk assessment for the work, organisations using these types of RRV should take in to account the potential for extending stopping distances in poor conditions

Operators of RRV's with or with out trailers should note the following:

- a. Adverse weather conditions and rail head contamination will reduce brake force available and extend stopping distances
- b. Where track or weather conditions are considered adverse RRV operators should be aware of changes in operating conditions and drive accordingly. It may be necessary to reduce speed, make allowances for extended stopping distances and running brake tests should be undertaken to test the brakes effectiveness.