

No: IGS 249

## Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

### Use of Ballast Plough Attachments

#### For the attention of:

Staff who plan, manage, supervise and undertake activities involving the use of Ballast Plough attachments fitted to On Track Plant (OTP)

#### Background

In September 2010 a serious incident occurred during the use of a ballast plough attached to a Road Rail Vehicle (RRV). As a result the Machine Controller (MC) suffered serious leg injuries after coming into contact with the RRV. Factors leading up to this incident included;

- A failure to establish a SSO including communication, and
- The proximity of the MC and the equipment during the ballast ploughing.



#### Action required

##### Those involved in planning are reminded:

- ✓ To check that the RRV and ballast plough are suitable for the amount of ballast to be regulated and that the work plan identifies this clearly.

##### Operators and MCs are reminded to:

- ✓ Carry out the pre-use inspection of all equipment and review the work plan.
- ✓ Implement a safe system of work including a means of communication between the Operator and MC prior to commencing ploughing tasks.
- ✓ Maintain an appropriate exclusion zone around the machine including the attachment whilst working.
- ✓ Not distract the operator while ploughing is in progress.
- ✓ Constantly review and assess the worksite conditions.
- ✓ When ploughing no movements shall be at speeds greater than walking pace

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