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Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Re-introduction of VMS Hydraulic Lifting Device

For the attention of; Infrastructure Projects, Principal Contractors, Project Managers and Network Rail S&T Maintenance.

Background: On 19th August 2012 at Lydney, a jacking point on a Variable Message Signs (VMS) Light Weight Signal catastrophically failed whilst being lowered to the ground. The incident resulted in the Hydraulic Lifting Device (HLD) being prohibited from operational duties (IGS264 – ISSUE 1).

Following an investigation, a modification to both the Hydraulic Lifting Device (HLD) and to the signal post has now been introduced.

Important notice:

It is the responsibility of the installer and maintainer to ensure staff, are trained and competent to operate the VMS Hydraulic Lifting Device (HLD) in accordance with operator instructions defined in 'OM_001588_REV I_Installation manual'. A copy of the manual can be obtained by contacting VMS (See below contact details).

Training and Competence planning

Principal Contractors: Training can be arranged through contacting Variable Message Signs (VMS). To book a course, please contact VMS via the contact details below. Training will include the following:

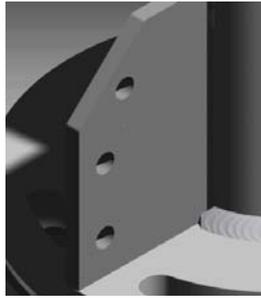
- Safe use of (VMS) Hydraulic Lifting Device (installation and maintenance)
- Overview of 5 hole modification procedure (Site Instruction 00092).

Network Rail employees: Training will be delivered by VMS. Courses can be booked through the 'ORACLE' system.

Network Rail Professional Development & Training (PD&T) competency 'Safe use of (VMS) Hydraulic Lifting Device' covers the operational use of the device when undertaking installations and maintenance activities.

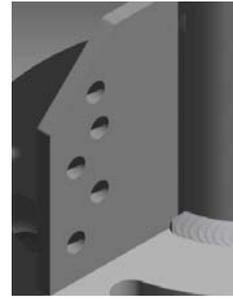
Modification: The lifting points on the post datum arms, have been modified from a 3 hole to a 5 hole arrangement.

- Figure 4, shows 'datum arm' lifting points with 3 and 5 hole arrangements.
- The new 5 hole arrangement uses high tensile steel, socket headed fasteners



Datum Arm - 3 hole arrangement

Old



Datum Arm - 5 hole arrangement

New

Figure 4

- Figure 5, shows the 5 hole arrangement in the HLD.



Figure 5

Important advisory notices:

1. Inspect the condition of the datum arm: fillet welds and existing holes before commencing with either modifying or attaching the lifting device to the signal post.
2. When undertaking this modification ensure that the procedure detailed with in 'OM_001588_REV I_Installation manual' and 'SI-000092 Rev A' are followed.

Action required: All existing Hydraulic Lifting Devices (HLD) must be modified to the 5 hole arrangement before re-introducing into operational use.

The manufacturer Variable Message Signs (VMS) will be modifying all devices.

To arrange for your device to be modified, please contact VMS via the contact details below:

Samantha Upton

Administrator

email: supton@vmslimited.co.uk

Tel: 0191 423 7070.

Issued by: Jim Allenden, Professional Head of Plant & T+RS james.allenden@networkrail.co.uk