

27th September 2012

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Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Action to be taken regarding handrails on bridges

For the attention of all Network Rail and Contractor staff

Background:

Last year, the handrailing on the Inveriel Viaduct on Scotland Route was seen to be misaligned and in a potentially insecure condition(photo on left). The handrailing also carried several cables. Remedial work was not carried out.



In May 2012 the handrail pulled out of the parapet and fell almost to ground level (photos above: centre and right): cable troughing fell to the road below and the parapet edge became inadequately protected to trackside personnel.

Action Required by all Railway Staff in all Routes:

If you are concerned about the condition of a handrail on a bridge:

- Don't ignore it: it is your duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to report it!
- Report it to the relevant Control Centre, stating location, structure number and reason for your concern

If you are planning to make a change to a handrail (eg: attach cables or other kit):

- Obtain approval before making permanent alterations, or adding significant temporary additional load (eg cables) to a handrail, by contacting the Route Asset Manager (RAM) (Civils)
- RAM (Civils) will decide whether the handrail is able to safely accept the changed load and give further guidance as necessary
- Network Rail Standard NR/L2/INI/02009 requires that new work is to be correctly integrated with existing infrastructure, for which the RAM (Civils) will need to be consulted