

Immediately Transferable Lessons from Serious Operational Incidents

Line Clear Verification – T3 Possession hand back IGS Bulletin 268



Incident Overview:

Where the Line Clear verification process is used to support possession management on axle counter areas, COSS's, ES's, PICOP's and Signallers are required to maintain a record of "vehicle" movements to, from and in the possession. These details are recorded on Vehicle Management Forms (VMF)

Prior to commencing possession hand back a PICOP is required to cross reference their VMF with all other parties.

A recent incident has occurred, that but for a call from a Tamper operator, would have resulted in a line being handed back clear and safe to run on with an OTM standing on the line, invisible to the controlling signaller due to the use of Engineering Possession Reminders

Contributing Factors

Although subject to a formal investigation the following issues have been identified as significant contributing factors.

PICOP using electronic versions of VMF.

PICOP not using the VMF as part of the hand over process when being relieved.

PICOP not having the VMF to hand when cross referencing vehicle location details with third parties.

Immediate Action Required: All PICOPs authorised to carryout LCV to be briefed, that:-

All Vehicle Management Forms must be completed in paper form.

Outgoing and incoming PICOP's must endorse each VMF at shift change over with their name, date and time.

Vehicle Management Forms shall be used and referenced at shift change over and both parties shall ensure a clear understanding is reached as to the location of all vehicles within the possession at that time.

Vehicle Management Forms shall be used and referenced when amending or handing back COSS work locations, ES work sites and Possessions

Andy Jones – National Operations Competence Manager

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