



Network Rail
The Quadrant:MK
Elder Gate
Milton Keynes
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No: NRS 288 Update 2

Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Withdrawal of Safety Bulletin NRS 288 Tongue / Socket Insulator - Tube Slippage Risk

For the attention of OLE Maintenance Delivery Units, Overhead Condition Renewals Team, Construction and Design Contractors.

Background:

During construction works on the Paisley Canal branch in Scotland, a cantilever top tube became detached from the insulator to which it was connected. A tongue and socket insulator had been used in this instance as per an OLEMI general arrangement drawing rather than the more usual crimped top tube connection.

Testing was carried out on insulators to the design of the ones concerned which initially determined that a maximum loading of 1kN could be applied to the insulator, and IGS 288 was issued to limit the use of the insulators to this.

Further testing has now been carried out by all manufacturers. This has proved that the slippage risk is not as previously stated and that the insulators are safe to use in the configurations contained within the OLEMI design range.

Immediate Action Required by all persons affected:

The restriction on the use of OLEMI insulators to drawings 1/121/032/A3 and 1/121/832/A3 where the tension value was greater than 1kN is lifted with immediate effect. These insulators may be used in accordance with the relevant product acceptance certificates and basic design arrangements, as before.

Installers are reminded of the necessity to tighten bolts to the manufacturer's recommended torque settings at all times.

For further technical details and advice contact John Hayes, Senior Technology Engineer (john.hayes3@networkrail.co.uk – 07801 907 046)