

03 January 2014

No: NRS_306

Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Top Head Hammer incident

For the attention of; All owners, operators and maintainers of Top Head Hammer Rigs and Soil/Rock nailing/Drilling devices

An incident occurred recently when an assistants hand became trapped between the releasing tool and the main framework of a **Top Head Hammer Rig** during the extension/fitment process of a nail/rod extension.

It has been reported that there was a communication breakdown between the operator and the assistant whilst a nail/rod extension was being fitted. This resulted in the rig being operated whilst the assistants hand was inside the equipment.



Action Required: **All drilling rigs are suspended from use** on Network Rail managed infrastructure until it can be shown that;

- Rigs are **CE marked** (or equivalent), this is the manufacturer's declaration that the product meets and is compliant to UK legislation.
- Rigs have **operational manuals** available for instruction and training purposes
- Rigs have a **training manual / program** for that specific item of equipment and operators have been **trained and have training records** available.
- Rigs have **maintenance and inspection records** with the next due date for statutory inspection displayed on the equipment.

In addition owners of each rig must apply for product acceptance by contacting Network Rail Technology introduction via the following link:

<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/Guide/Product-acceptance-form.aspx>

Or contact

Roger Moore (Senior Engineer (AMS)) on 07766478718
Tony Dawson (Plant and T&RS engineer (TS)) on 07515626205

Operators are also reminded to comply with the relevant task risk control sheet, risk assessments and complete pre-use inspections.

Please contact Tony Dawson on 07515626205 or email tony.dawson@networkrail.co.uk if you have any questions about this bulletin.

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