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Network Rail Safety Bulletin

LOWS Users - Update

For the attention of : All Network Rail Delivery Unit Managers and all Contractors

An incident on 21 February 2014 resulted in the Zollner Lookout Operated Warning System (LOWS) being withdrawn, and then subsequently reintroduced on 26 of February when the investigation demonstrated the equipment operated as designed. The bulletin (NRS: 312 Issue 02) allowed Zollner LOWS to be returned to service for Network Rail employees only, and highlighted *user competency and experience* as being absolutely critical in the successful deployment of LOWS.

Update:

LOWS equipment may only be used by workers with the relevant LOWS lookout/controller competencies recorded on Sentinel. LOWS competencies not validated on Sentinel by **8 August 2014** shall be deemed as an invalid competence.

Infrastructure Maintenance Delivery Managers or equivalent should check and verify each user's record of training and equipment usage before authorising the reuse of LOWS by staff. The record of entries must, as a minimum, meet the number of uses required by NR/L2/CTM/206 & NR/L3/MTC/SE0206. With enhanced skills being important, priority should be given to those with greatest expertise.

Infrastructure Maintenance Delivery Managers or equivalent should have completed the first assurance requirement, following the initial equipment withdrawal on 21 February 2014. A second assurance requirement involves a documented *compliance assurance inspection*; these shall be scheduled and completed by **31 October 2014**. The LOWS/TWS National Steering Group has provided a template protocol which covers the minimum requirements for assurance and should be used to undertake the inspections on each DU deploying LOWS.

LOWS use by contractors:

Assurance checks undertaken on contractors since the withdrawal on 21 February 2014, have indicated that only the following contractor has an adequate management system in place for supplying and using LOWS equipment:

Rail Safety Solutions Ltd (RSS Ltd) has been given temporary approval to provide LOWS services using Zollner & Schweizer technology. The condition for approval has been agreed with RSS Ltd within the limitation specified by Network Rail's Safety & Sustainable Development Team.

No other company is able to provide LOWS services on Network Rail infrastructure.
Any change in the approval of authorised contractors will be notified with an updated Safety Bulletin