

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident

Safety critical failures of link trolley brakes

Issued to: **All users of link trolleys**

Ref: NRA 15/06

Date of issue: 12/08/2015

Location: National

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Link trolley failures

Overview

Inspection of the link trolley fleet at Northampton Bridge Street Depot found three out of eight units to have brake systems that had failed. Further investigation with Torrent Trackside identified evidence of other trolleys returned for maintenance with similar failures.

The right-angled bracket, which is welded to the frame and holds the brake spring in place, was bent away from the wheel. This reduces the brake force and increases the risk of runaway.

Immediate action required

- **Link trolleys shall not be used on gradients steeper than 1:150 until further notice.**
- All link trolleys held by your organisation must be inspected, and units that display any of the following must be quarantined:
 - a) bent bracket holding the spring in place'; or
 - b) coil-bound springs (no gap between each coil).
- All link trolleys must undergo a pre-use check on each occasion of use. Any units with the signs of damage listed above must not be used and must be quarantined.
- Quarantined units must be labelled, removed from stores and reported to the maintainer.
- Users of link trolleys are reminded that the load must not be greater than one tonne. When trolleys are linked together the total load across all trolleys must not be greater than one tonne.