

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident

Installation of tubular stretcher bars on new switches & crossings (S&C)

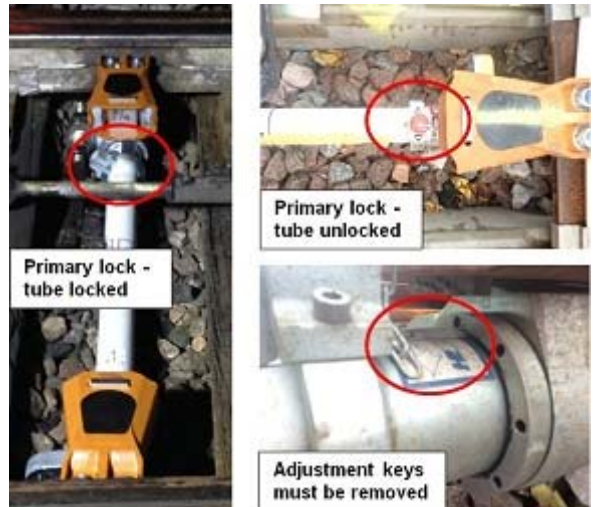
Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and Achilles registered contractors

Ref: NRA 15/08

Date of issue: 21/10/2015

Location: Bickley Junction, Kent

Contact: [Martin Jones](#), Head of Switches & Crossings



Overview

Four new S&C panels were installed at Bickley Junction during October 2015.

A subsequent maintenance inspection revealed that the tubular stretcher bars had not been correctly secured to the rails nor had their respective adjustment locking mechanisms (primary and secondary locks) been secured.

This could have led to the tubular stretcher bars becoming detached and/or the tubular stretcher bar length changing making the S&C unsafe for traffic.

This Advice reminds staff that new S&C panels fitted with tubular stretcher bars must follow the installation and test procedures required by NR/L2/TRK/6100.

Immediate action required

- All suppliers of S&C to Network Rail must check and record that when fitting tubular stretcher bars to S&C layouts, they are correctly installed, torqued and both primary and secondary locks fully engaged with the associated locking keys removed.
- All staff who install, check or test tubular stretcher bars must hold the competence: Sig58 – Install and Maintain Tubular Stretcher Bar.
- All Signal Works Testers involved with commissioning new S&C layouts must check test plans are sufficient to confirm all stretcher bars are fitted and secured correctly.
- This Safety Advice primarily applies to Infrastructure Projects, contractors and suppliers of new S&C panels to Network Rail.