

Date 20 February 2014

No: NRS 312

Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Zollner ZPW Lookout Operated Warning System

For the attention of: All railway industry staff

There was a reported failure of a Lookout Operated Warning System (LOWS) used by a contractor on the West Coast Mainline earlier today. The unit had repeatedly provided warnings as trains approached but then failed when the lookout sent a warning. The work group independently spotted the approaching train, moving to a place of safety five seconds before it arrived. The LOWS unit failure was replicated in subsequent tests.

We do not yet know why the LOWS protection failed. Expert testing will take place within days but until we can explain the failure, all Zollner ZPW LOWS equipment must be immediately withdrawn from service.

Immediate action required by all Principal Contractors and Network Rail staff:

- **Withdraw all Zollner ZPW LOWS** equipment from service and quarantine pending detailed examination of the unit involved in this incident;
- **Either cancel or re-plan** all work scheduled to use Zollner ZPW LOWS equipment with protection at least as effective.

NB Working with unassisted lookouts where better protection was planned is unlikely to be appropriate.