

No: IGS 238

Infrastructure Group Safety Bulletin

Operation and Control of On Track Plant

This bulletin is for the attention of all staff and contractors involved in the planning, operation and control of On Track Plant, particularly planners, OTP Operators, Machine Controllers, Crane Controllers, ATME's and COSS's.

Line Managers must brief the controls in this bulletin to all staff with a responsibility for OTP.

Background:

For illustrative purposes only



A number of incidents have occurred recently involving On Track Plant (OTP) and this bulletin reminds staff of some of the key controls to employ when working with or adjacent to OTP.

Staff responsible for operating and controlling OTP should implement these controls and comply with all other requirements contained in the relevant Train Operations Manual procedure and Maintenance Task Risk Control Sheets.

Actions to be taken:

On / Off Tracking

- At the planning stage the site shall be examined so that gradient and cant measurements are within plant limitations as required by the Certificate of Engineering Acceptance.
- Only authorised On/Off Tracking points are to be used
- OTP shall be on-tracked using the correct procedures and a functional brake test undertaken

Maintenance Task Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/MP02, NR/L2/RMVP/0207, On/Off & Cross Tracking of On Track Plant and COP0016, Machine/Crane Controller Checklist applies.

Pre-Use Checks

- All OTP and attachments must have a current 'in service' sticker/label/tag clearly visible
- All pre use checks must be undertaken and observed by the Operator and Machine Controller/Crane Controller before the vehicle is used on site
- As part of these checks a functional brake test should be performed and particular attention paid to the condition of pneumatic road tyres if used to brake the vehicle in rail mode. These should be in good condition.

Train Operations Manual procedure COP0016, Machine/Crane Controller Checklist applies.

Operation and Control

- All staff must be trained and competent to undertake their duties
- The safe system of work must consider the movement of trains and protection of adjacent open lines.
- The operator should consider the effect of adverse weather and track conditions on the performance and stopping distance of the vehicle and drive accordingly.
- Effective communications must be established between all parties operating and/or controlling the vehicle
- The Machine Controller/Crane Controller and all other staff working adjacent to the vehicle must remain in view of the operator when the vehicle is moving or operating.
- All staff working in the vicinity of OTP must be briefed of the limits of operation and any movements taking place by the COSS in charge of the SSOW for their workgroup.

Maintenance Task Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/MP01 applies

Working under live OLE

- The vehicle must be approved for on/off tracking, travelling or working under live OLE. Limitations are shown on the Certificate of Engineering Acceptance.
- A method of work, authorised by the local E&P manager, must be briefed to all staff concerned prior to on-tracking or operation of OTP under live OLE.
- Height limiters shall be set up and tested in an area of electrical safety prior to working

Maintenance Task Risk Control Sheets NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/LW03 Work on OLE:Near to Live OLE, NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/LW06 Working under live OLE:360 RRV Excavators and NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/LW04 Working under live OLE: Dumper mounted RRV Cranes: Lifting Operations and NR/SP/ELP/29987 Working on 25kV AC Electrified Lines apply.

Lifting

- A site specific risk assessment, method of work/work package plan and lift plan shall be produced and briefed before lifting is undertaken on site. This must include a review of ground features which could affect the lifting operation.
- All staff involved in the operation and control of the OTP and lifting operation shall be competent in their duties
- Safe Working Limit, Radius and Load and Rated Capacity Indicators shall be operable at all times and not turned off
- Operators and slingers shall perform pre-use checks prior to all lifts to check that all lifting equipment, including loose lifting accessories, are free from defects, within maintenance inspection date and suitable for the task to be carried out
- Suitable exclusion zones, dependent on the lift being undertaken, shall be created and maintained.
- On or off tracking while lifting must not be undertaken

Additionally when tandem lifting,

- Crane Operators and Controllers must be trained and competent in the activity
- Both cranes must be rated at the heaviest share of the load plus 50%
- OTP being used for Tandem Lifting shall always be of compatible characteristics, i.e. Load Radius Capacity, boom configuration and speed of operation
- Any OTP used for Tandem Lifting shall be fitted with a load limiting device or RCI with a lift and carry duty.

Maintenance Task Risk Control Sheet NR/L3/MTC/RCS0216/MP06, Lifting and Thimbling Operations and NR/L2/RMVP/0203, Specification for Planning and Undertaking Lifting Operations using On Track Plant apply.

Staff working adjacent to RRVs

- Staff working adjacent to OTP must follow any instructions provided by the COSS to protect them from OTP movements and adhere to any exclusion zones briefed to them as part of the safe system of work.

Issued by: Justin Page, Head of Infrastructure Maintenance Safety & Compliance, justin.page@networkrail.co.uk