



Network Rail
1 Eversholt Street
London
NW1 2DN

20th December 2016

To all,

We are pleased to be writing to confirm that following a period of extensive consultation the NR/L2/OHS/019 – Safety of Personnel at Work on or Near the Line Standard has now been approved through Network Rail Standards Committee and has been released to the industry.

This standard has addressed the safety weaknesses the industry collectively recognized were present in the existing standard, and has been developed by a truly cross industry working group. We are particularly grateful to our Trades Union colleagues for their input to this standard – from initial development work led by RMT through to key working group participants in Unite and TSSA. The standard has been developed by exceptional collaboration of a diverse group of parties with one thing in common – a desire to improve the safety of our workforce.

We know that people are more likely to be hurt when they don't know who is responsible for safety and in simple terms this is what this revised standard is all about – removing confusion and making it simple to understand. This revised standard introduces the concept of One Person in Charge;

- a. who will be in charge of the workgroup
- b. who has been involved in leading / directing how the work will be planned
- c. who makes sure task risk is correctly addressed

The Person in Charge is a capability, and in simple terms it makes it clear who 'the boss of the work group' is. In a Route this would normally be a Team Leader who holds a COSS or Engineering Supervisor competence. In Infrastructure Projects and associated Principal Contractors this will be a Safe Work Leader.

The standard has now received stakeholder consensus from across the industry and as such, we are pleased to confirm it has now been released. Throughout the consultation process the quality of feedback received has been exceptional, with in excess of 1000 comments received. One of the key pieces of feedback our stakeholders have provided is the importance of adequate preparation in advance of the introduction of the revised standard to offer confidence that as an industry we are set up for success when the standard 'goes live'.

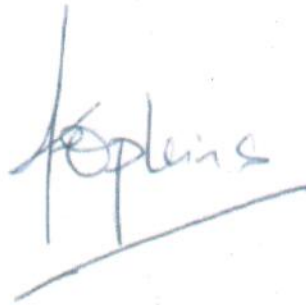
As such, we are pleased to confirm that we have actively listened to this feedback and as such do not intend to introduce this revised standard before July 2017. The standard is now available online and a suite of materials will be released in the New Year to allow briefings and training to commence, and to allow more time for all those affected by this revised standard to properly prepare for its introduction.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the successful development of this revised standard, it is the product of significant effort and dedication from a vast selection of individuals and is something we should collectively be proud of. We are confident that successful introduction of this revised standard will create a safer working environment for all those working on the railway.

Yours sincerely



Phil Hufton
Managing Director,
England & Wales



Graham Hopkins
Group Safety, Technical
& Engineering Director