

Non-compliant insulated tools

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

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Location: National

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Overview

Following an inspection at various tool stores it was found that non-compliant insulated tools are being routinely used on Network Rail Managed Infrastructure.

The use of untested or damaged tools is in contravention of NR/L3/MTC/EP0152, Section 6, with Section 6.1 stating "Only Network Rail approved tools constructed to BS 8020:2011 'Tools for Live Working. Insulating hand tools for work on or near conductor rail systems operating at voltages up to 1000v a.c. or 1500v d.c.' shall be selected."

Only tools certified to BS 8020:2011 are authorised for use on Network Rail Managed Infrastructure.

New equipment shall hold a Certificate of Conformity to BS 8020:2011 / BS 876 and be marked accordingly.

Immediate action required

- New insulated tools shall conform to BS 8020:2011 and be delivered with a Certificate of Conformity and manufacturer's written instructions.
- Insulated tools shall be permanently marked with:
 - Manufacturer's name, trade mark or other identification (suppliers names in isolation are not acceptable);
 - Year of manufacture or traceability mark;
 - Double triangle symbol with rated working voltage 1000v a.c. 1500v d.c.;
 - The number and date of the British Standard i.e. BS 8020:2011.
- All insulated tools shall be inspected for permanent markings with the above information. In the event that they are not marked correctly they shall be deemed non-compliant and removed from service.
- All insulated tools shall be inspected for fitness for purpose in accordance with the manufacturer's written instructions.
- Suspect insulated tools shall be withdrawn from service, quarantined and labelled not to be used, examined and retested if necessary.
- A [technical bulletin](#) is available on Safety Central with further information.

Copies of Safety Advice are available on [Safety Central](#).