

Safety critical failures of link trolley brakes - Issue 2

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

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Location: Northampton

Contact: [Malcolm Miles](#), Head of Plant



Overview

This Safety Advice is being re-issued following a review by the STE Head of Plant team to confirm the on-going actions that are required for the safe operation of this equipment.

Inspection of the link trolley fleet at Northampton Bridge Street Depot during 2015 found three out of eight units to have brake systems that had failed. Further investigation with Torrent Trackside identified evidence of other trolleys returned for maintenance with similar failures.

The right-angled bracket, which is welded to the frame and holds the brake spring in place, was bent away from the wheel. This reduces the brake force and increases the risk of runaway.

This Safety Advice was originally issued as [NRA 15/06](#).

Immediate action required

Ongoing Actions

- Link Trolleys shall not be used on gradients greater than 1:150 until further notice from the Head of Plant.
- The restriction applies to Link Trolleys only due to the failure mode pictured above.

Note: For example, Type B trolleys do not have this configuration of brake components.

Planning and operations

ALL operations involving Trolleys, irrespective of any gradient restrictions, shall:

- Be planned in accordance with the requirements of NR/L2/RMVP/0200.
- Consider the requirements of NR/L2/OHS/019.
- Only use 'in service' and fit for purpose units.
- Be operated in accordance with the Manufacturer's instructions, particularly with regards to the use of the item specific push handle.

ALL Trolleys shall undergo a pre-use check on each occasion of use. If any of the following damage is present on Link Trolleys, they shall be quarantined:

1. Bent bracket holding the spring in place.
2. Coil Bound spring (no gaps between each coil).

Planners and users of Link Trolleys shall not exceed the maximum safe working load of the Link Trolley of 1 tonne. When Link Trolleys are linked together, the load shall not exceed 1 tonne.

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