Safety Advice

everyone home safe every day

The purchase/hire/use of insulated hand tools without Network Rail Product Acceptance



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

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Location: Anthony Haynes, Safety Manager, John Watt, Principal Engineer (Plant) or Katrina Hoyland, Business Manager

Overview

A breach of the life saving rules has been brought to our attention. Some Network Rail (NR) and our accredited contractors staff are purchasing or hiring in insulated hand tools from suppliers whose products may appear legitimate but have not been approved for use by the NR Product Acceptance (PA) process. Unsuitable, damaged, or untested tools are not fit for their intended purpose and have the potential to expose operatives to the risk of injury or death from electrocution.

Insulated hand tools must have Network Rail Product Acceptance, comply with BS 8020:2011 and be fit for their intended use. Compliance with BS 8020:2011 alone is not sufficient.

NR Standard NR/L3/MTC/EP0152, Section 6, with clause 6.1 stipluates "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 AC or 1500v DC shall be selected."

Immediate action required

- **Withdraw from use and dispose of** any insulated hand tools for which NR Product Acceptance cannot be confirmed.
- **Before purchase or hire**, confirm that the specific tool is covered by an NR PA certificate for its intended use.
- **Use approved purchasing process** - see How do I buy an item requiring PA? (NR colleagues only).

Currently, only the following manufactures of insulated hand tools have Network Rail Product Accept Product Acceptance:

JAFCO branded tools specifically listed on Certificate of Acceptance PA05/07318

BULLDOG branded tools specifically listed on Certificate of Acceptance PA05/07253.

Lawton Tools (Rail Products) Ltd branded tools specifically listed on Certificates of Acceptance PA05/02661, PA05/05009 and PA05/08148.

Marking requirements and inspection

Insulated hand tools shall be permanently marked with:

- Manufacturer's name, trademark or other identification (suppliers names in isolation are not acceptable);
- Year of manufacture or traceability mark;
- Double triangle symbol with rated working voltage 1000v AC / 1500v DC;
- The number and date of the British Standard i.e. BS 8020:2011.

Inspect all insulated hand tools to check:

- They carry the permanent markings as listed above; and
- Are they fit for purpose in accordance with the manufacturer's written instructions?

Further information

A previously issued TA Engineering Alert on insulated tools provides supplementary information and illustrations. It should be read alongside this Safety Advice; it does not replace the requirement for Network Rail Product Acceptance.