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February 2023

Rail Safety Bulletin



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NR/L3/ELP/27720 – Test Before Touch for Overhead Line Equipment

Following recent electrical safety incidents where colleagues sustained life changing injuries due to inadvertent contact with Live Overhead Line Equipment (OLE), a new standard has been published to formalise and improve the Test Before Touch process for OLE.

Test Before Touch for OLE will be completed by an Authorised Person or Nominated Person. It demonstrates to the COSS (OLP) and members of the working party that the OLE is de-energised at the location of the test. It is an additional check to make sure that everyone in the working party is in the right place in accordance with the Overhead Line Permit.

If you hold any of the following competencies, you're required to undertake a detailed briefing on the content of the new standard:

- Nominated Person
- Authorised Person
- COSS (OLP)
- Persons holding OLE2 & OLE4
- Persons holding OLE3, where the person holds elements 2, 3 and 4 and;
- Persons involved in the planning of the implementation of isolations and associated Overhead Line Permits

The Test Before Touch for OLE standard and briefing materials are available via your normal means of accessing standards, with a compliance date of 4th January 2023.

Key Message

- Have you had your detailed or overview brief on the Test Before Touch for OLE standard?
- Do you understand when the requirements of the Test Before Touch for OLE standard apply?
- How do you currently assure yourself that the conductor you're about to touch is safe to do so?
- Are you always briefed on the contents of the Overhead Line Permit (Form C) by the COSS (OLP)?
- If you are unsure about any part of the briefing of the Overhead Line Permit, how do you seek further clarification?
- What action would you take if you felt unsafe whilst working on or near OLE?

The briefing Presentation is available [HERE](#) for those not yet briefed

Table of Forms under NR/L3/ELP/27720

The table below relates to the use of ALL Forms associated with the Isolation Process – Please review and ensure that you are using the correct forms.

Reference	Title	Version(s) to be used under issue 8 of NR/L3/ELP/29987 Issue no. and publication date(s))
29987/AE	Form AE	Issue 1 (05/09/2015)
29987/AS	Form AS	Issue 1 (05/09/2015)
29987/IPF	Form IPF	Issue 1 (05/09/2015)
NR/L3/ELP/29987/AT	Form AT - Blocking of Lines for Electric Traction Purposes	Issue 2 (01/12/2018)
NR/L3/ELP/29987/B	Form B - NETWORK RAIL AUTHORITY TO TEST AND APPLY PORTABLE EARTHS AND REMINDER OF LIVE EXPOSED EQUIPMENT TO OVERHEAD LINE EQUIPMENT INCLUDING RETURN CONDUCTORS AND AUTOTRANSFORMER FEEDERS	Issue 8 (03/09/2022) <u>OR</u> Issue 7 (20/10/2021)
NR/L3/ELP/29987/C	OVERHEAD LINE PERMIT	Issue 7 (03/09/2022)
NR/L3/ELP/29987/CT	NETWORK RAIL DECLARATION OF ISOLATION AT PELAW TPH COAST-THROUGH SECTION INSULATORS FORMING BOUNDARY BETWEEN ELECTRICAL CONTROL AREAS	Issue 2 (03/09/2022) <u>OR</u> Issue 1 (04/06/2022)
NR/L3/ELP/29987/IDF	Form IDF - Isolation Details Form	Issue 5 (03/09/2022) <u>OR</u> Issue 4 (04/09/2021)
NR/L3/ELP/29987/N	NETWORK RAIL DECLARATION OF SWITCHED-OFF OLE AT NEUTRAL SECTION FORMING BOUNDARY BETWEEN ELECTRICAL CONTROLS	Issue 4 (03/09/2022) <u>OR</u> Issue 3 (05/09/2015)
NR/L3/ELP/29987/NC	Form NC - NETWORK RAIL / OTHER THIRD PARTY ELECTRIFICATION SYSTEMS DECLARATION OF SWITCHED-OFF OLE AT NEUTRAL SECTION FORMING BOUNDARY AT INTERFACE BETWEEN NETWORK RAIL AND OTHER THIRD PARTY ELECTIFICATION SYSTEMS	Issue 4 (03/09/2022) <u>OR</u> Issue 3 (01/12/2018)
NR/L3/ELP/29987/SDF	ELECTRICAL CONTROL ROOM SWITCHING DETAILS FORM	Issue 2 (03/09/2022) <u>OR</u> Issue 1 (02/06/2007)
NR/L3/ELP/29987/STED	SWITCHING, TESTING, EARTHING AND DETAILS	Issue 6 (03/09/2022) <u>OR</u> Issue 5 (04/09/2021)

Reference	Title	Version(s) to be used under issue 8 of NR/L3/ELP/29987 Issue no. and publication date(s))
NR/L3/ELP/29987/TC	DECLARATION OF SWITCHED-OFF OLE AT SECTION INSULATOR FORMING BOUNDARY BETWEEN NETWORK RAIL & SUPERTRAM	Issue 2 (03/09/2022) <u>OR</u> Issue 1 (04/06/2022)
NR/L3/ELP/29987/X/GB SIP/B	Authority to test and apply portable earths and reminder of live exposed equipment to Overhead Line Equipment including return conductors and auto transformer feeders	Issue 6 (03/09/2022) <u>OR</u> Issue 5 (17/11/2021)
NR/L3/ELP/29987/X/GB SIP/STED	Switching, Testing & Earthing Details	Issue 6 (03/09/2022) <u>OR</u> Issue 5 (04/09/2021)

NOTE: Overhead Line Permit (Form C) must be at Issue 7 – all earlier versions must be withdrawn

Ballast Dust Risk

Network Rail have recently published a guide on managing the risk associated with Ballast Dust.

The new guidance provides mandatory controls based on a range of typical locations where Ballast Dust presents significant health risk to operatives.

Set out below are the MANDATORY Controls required by employers/sponsors and the worker/operative.

Location 1:	Manual operations <2M from source or if wind could cause exposure. <1HR EXPOSURE and less than three people in open environment
Administrative Controls by Employer	All person briefed on risk of ballast dust and trained in use of control measures
	Occupational Health surveillance to be in place for those exposed with mandatory attendance by employees
	Provision of clean storage for RPE
	Good hygiene to avoid ingestion – suitable washing, reduced smoking, eating and drinking areas
	Respiratory e-learning
	Compliance checks – audits, inspections and supervision
PPE	Tight fitting disposable masks
	Filtering facepiece (FFP3) with assigned protection factor (AFP) of 20
	Change filters on respirators in accordance with manufacturers proposal
	Wear eye protection – grade B
	Face fit testing must be conducted prior to undertaking task

Location 2	Manual operations <2m from source or if wind could cause exposure. >1HR EXPOSURE or/and more two people
Administrative Controls by Employer	All person briefed on risk of ballast dust and trained in use of control measures
	Occupational Health surveillance to be in place for those exposed with mandatory attendance by employees
	Provision of clean storage for RPE
	Good hygiene to avoid ingestion – suitable washing, reduced smoking, eating and drinking areas
	Respiratory e-learning
	Compliance checks – audits, inspections and supervision
PPE	Powered air respirator required with integral visor. FFP3 APF20
	Change filters on respirators in accordance with manufacturers proposal and document all changes
	Wear eye protection – grade B

Location 3	Mechanical operations *DRY CONDITIONS <10m from source or if wind could cause exposure
Engineering Controls	Exclusion Zones in place
	Automated water suppression – manual system where auto is not possible
	Protected OTP cabs with forced air and HEPA filters
	Vehicle windows to be closed at all times
Administrative Controls by Employer	All person briefed on risk of ballast dust and trained in use of control measures
	Occupational Health surveillance to be in place for those exposed with mandatory attendance by employees
	Provision of clean storage for RPE
	Good hygiene to avoid ingestion – suitable washing, reduced smoking, eating and drinking areas
	Respiratory e-learning
	Compliance checks – audits, inspections and supervision
PPE	Powered air respirator required with integral visor. FFP3 APF20
	Tight fitting FFP3 where exposure is less than 1 hour
	Change filters on respirators in accordance with manufacturers proposal and document all changes
	Face fit testing must be conducted for tight fitting face mask
	Wear eye protection – grade B

Location 4	Mechanical operations wet conditions Less than 10m from source or if wind could cause exposure
Engineering Controls	Exclusion Zones in place
	Protected OTP cabs with forced air and HEPA filters
Administrative Controls by Employer	All person briefed on risk of ballast dust and trained in use of control measures
	Occupational Health surveillance to be in place for those exposed with mandatory attendance by employees
	Provision of clean storage for RPE
	Good hygiene to avoid ingestion – suitable washing, reduced smoking, eating and drinking areas
	Respiratory e-learning
	Compliance checks – audits, inspections and supervision
PPE	Powered respirator required with integral visor if over one hour exposure otherwise RPE with assigned protection factor of least 40 FFP3
	Change filters on respirators in accordance with manufacturers proposals
	Face fit testing must be conducted
	Wear eye protection

Location 5	Mechanical and manual operations in TUNNEL Applies to everyone in the tunnel
Engineering Controls	Exclusion Zones in place
	Automated water suppression or if not possible then manual water suppression – consider damping at source
	Force ventilation or full risk assessment including tunnel airflow analysis
	Protected OTP in cabs with forced air and HEPA filters
	Vehicle windows to be closed at all times
Administrative Controls by Employer	All persons briefed on risk of ballast dust and trained in use of control measures
	Occupational health surveillance in place for all those exposed to risk, mandatory attendance by employees
	Clean storage for RPE provided and maintain equipment in accordance with guidelines
	Good hygiene to avoid ingestion – suitable washing, reduced smoking, eating and drinking areas
	Respiratory e-learning
	Compliance checks – audits, inspections and supervision
PPE	Operating within exclusion zone - Powered air respirator required with integral visor. FFP3 APF20
	Operating outside of exclusion zone - Tight fitting FFP3 for maximum of 1hour
	Maintenance and filter changes in accordance with manufacturers guidance and must be documented
	Face fit testing must be conducted
	Wear eye protection – GRADE B

Sentinel Training Communication Issued 03.03.2023

Who does this affect?

Any person attending Personal Track Safety (PTS), Assured Providers and Assured Trainers who deliver PTS initial & recertification training, Sponsors, and Competence Holders.

What is changing?

As a result of the update to NR/L2/OHS/00120 Drugs, Alcohol & Substance Misuse in the Workplace Issue 7, published on 4th March 2023 any person attending PTS Initial shall have undergone drugs & alcohol testing and received a negative result **within the last 3 months**.

Any person attending PTS recertification shall have undergone drugs & alcohol testing and received a negative result **within the last 12 months**. This Network Rail standard/control document NR/L2/OHS/00120 Drugs, Alcohol & Substance Misuse in the Workplace is mandatory and shall be complied with by Network Rail Infrastructure Limited and its contractors from **4th March 2023**.

So, if a person attends a PTS Initial they must have had a negative A&D Screening in the 3months prior to attending the course.

If a person is attending a PTS recertification course, they must have had a negative A&D result in the previous 12 months.

QUIZ TIME

There were quite a few correct entries to the Quiz that was set in December Rail Safety Bulletin.

The Question

Rearrange the letters to find the industry related word.

Ara Wily RAILWAY	Eelsrep SLEEPER	Arrowtinkle NETOWRK RAIL	Intune TUNNEL
Axing Slob SIGNALBOX	BulkOreo RULEBOOK	Intoast STATION	Loftramp PLATFORM

The first name out of the stationmaster's hat was Susan Spice of Select Surveys Ltd

Congratulations Susan!

So, we have another opportunity to create a winner!

There is a £25 M&S Voucher up for grabs in this, the February 2023 Rail Safety Bulletin

To be a winner this month, just answer the simple question below;



The Question

In 1839 I was outside the wall, by 1841 I was within the wall, and then in 1877 I was moved back out.

What am I, and Where am I?

Answers by email please to info@prb-consulting.co.uk to be in with a chance of winning the £25.00 M&S voucher – Put QUIZ in the subject.

Closing Date: March 31st 2023

RAIL SAFETY BULLETIN
February 2023

Briefed By:		Briefers Role:	
Briefing Date:		Briefers Signature:	
Sentinel Coordinator:		Sentinel Coordinator Signature:	

By signing below, I confirm that I have received and understood the briefing material contained within this bulletin.

NAME	SENTINEL NUMBER	SIGNATURE