

## Title: Inappropriate Track Access

### Reason for Alert:

On a recent night shift at an LNE worksite a T3 possession was taken for 2 tracks on a 4 track section. Under possession was the Down fast and Up fast with the Down slow and Up slow being subject to line blocks during the works. On 2 separate occasions , 2 COSS`s different were observed crossing the Down Slow without taking a line block, the process they used to cross the live line was to phone the Protection Controller and ask if they could cross between trains commonly known as a "margin". The Down slow was open at line speed which was 70MPH at the time they crossed the live line.

### Action to be Taken:

- The use of "margins" is prohibited. They must not be requested or granted.
- Always use the correct and briefed method for accessing or egressing the track. (*note: In the situation outlined by this alert the correct method was the use of correctly taken line blockages of the type that do not require additional protection*).
- Planners should note that if a red zone working solution is assessed to more appropriate for the location and the staff numbers involved, the plan must be justified and approved in advance.

Remember - Life saving rule number 1 :-



Always have a valid safe system of work in place before going on or near the line.

Source of Alert (if external):

**Please Display on Noticeboards and Brief Out Within  
2 Working Days**

Issued by: John Scott

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