

No: 297

## Network Rail Safety Bulletin

### Adjacent Line Open Working and Vehicle Movements On or Near the Line:

For the attention of:

Network Rail employees, Principal Contractors, Contractors and Plant Hire Suppliers.

#### Background:

Accessing the worksite, site visits, making deliveries and collections are just some of the activities that vehicles may undertake whilst on or near operational lines. These activities must be considered in advance, controlled and risk assessed, as failure to do so may result in the potential for a serious, or possibly catastrophic, incident to occur. The photographs shown below are examples of recent incidents which show the consequences when vehicles have undertaken manoeuvres without adequate control measures.

This bulletin has been written to clarify when the use of vehicles on or near operational lines should be treated as an Adjacent Line Open (ALO) working activity.



Vehicle door struck by passenger train



Vehicle within 1 metre of an operational line

Every activity involving vehicles needs to have a suitable risk assessment in place and appropriate control measures. You need to determine if the use of the vehicle could constitute ALO.

Where a vehicle is *travelling* to a worksite, transporting employees, and making manoeuvres this is unlikely to constitute ALO working and the requirements of the **Rulebook** will apply.

Where the vehicle is *undertaking work* of any sort, and this will include loading and unloading, then this may constitute ALO working and its activity needs to be assessed in line with the requirements of the ALO guidance documents.

## **Vehicle Travelling:**

**Rulebook Handbook 1 “General Duties and Track Safety of Trackworkers”** requires the following:-

General Duties - 3.3 Using a road vehicle on the lineside

If you are using a road vehicle, you must not allow it to enter the area called on or near the line unless:

- you are the driver of the vehicle and are either a COSS or an IWA, or
- a COSS is present and has given you permission.

## **Vehicle Undertaking Work**

Use the following documents to assess if there is an ALO risk present.

If an ALO risk is present the requirements of the following should be applied:

- RRV SIP “Managing Plant Working next to lines open to traffic Issue 2” and
- RRV SIP “ALO Planning Assurance Requirements”.

## **Additional Guidance and Detailed Requirements:**

- Handbook 15 “Duties of the Machine Controller (MC) and On Track Plant Operator”.
- Network Rail “Plant Manual NR/Plant/0200”
- Company Road Fleet Driver Handbook.
- HSG136 “Workplace Transport Safety Employers Guide.
- HSG144 “The Safe use of Vehicles on Construction Sites”