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Network Rail Safety Bulletin

Zollner ZPW Lookout Operated Warning System

UPDATE

For the attention of: All Network Rail staff

Investigation into the reported failure of a Lookout Operated Warning System (LOWS) used by a contractor on the West Coast Mainline on Friday 21 February is making good progress. There are questions about the overall protection arrangements on that site which remain to be explored.

The investigation has now shown to our satisfaction that:

- **The Zollner ZPW LOWS equipment worked as designed;**
- **The equipment displayed the expected alarms given the inputs from the operators; and**
- **All Zollner ZPW systems deployed in the UK are to the same design level.**

However, the circumstances have once again highlighted that operator competence is absolutely critical for safe LOWS operation. As a result Network Rail's Zollner ZPW LOWS equipment may be returned to service under the following conditions:

- Zollner ZPW LOWS equipment may be used **only by Network Rail employees** with the relevant LOWS lookout/controller competences recorded in Sentinel;
- **Infrastructure Maintenance Delivery Managers** or equivalent should check and verify each user's record of training and use before authorising LOWS re-use by them. The record entries must, as a minimum, meet the number required by the relevant standard but with enhanced skills being so important, priority should be given to those with greatest expertise.

Until the current investigation concludes, LOWS may not be used on Network Rail infrastructure by contractor staff.