

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident

Manual handling of troughing products following ORR prohibition and improvement notices

Issued to: All staff and contractors engaged in the specification, planning, installation, renewal and disposal of troughing products

Ref: NRA 15/02

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Location: National

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Overview

In May 2014, Network Rail issued [Safety Bulletin 323](#) which prohibited with immediate effect the manual lifting, carrying and team handling of C143 conventional concrete troughing.

In January 2015, Network Rail issued [Safety Bulletin NRB 15/01](#) mandating a risk assessment policy for all troughing products by using the MAC tool together with the troughing elements risk chart.

On 22 April 2015 ORR issued the following Notices:

Prohibition Notice PN40/22042015 prohibiting "single individual employees or contractors manually lifting or carrying 10 or more units of troughing weighing 40kg or more in a 12 hours period" anywhere on Network Rail Infrastructure.

Prohibition Notice PN70/22042015 prohibiting "two employees or contractors manually lifting or carrying 10 or more units of troughing weighing 70kg or more in a 12 hours period" anywhere on Network Rail Infrastructure.

Both of the Prohibition Notices apply immediately. **Continuing the activity would be a criminal offence.**

A further **Improvement Notice IN/25/22042015** requires Network Rail to undertake a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risk to employees, and contractors working under our control, from manually handling troughing weighing 25kg and more. That assessment will need to identify the measures necessary to control the risks identified.

This additional work is required by 25 October 2015. Further information will be communicated when the work is complete.

Immediate action required

- Compliance with the requirements of the Prohibition Notices is required immediately.
- If you are about to manually handle concrete troughing products then you must have an approved, site-specific risk assessment. If you haven't then stop, request that a risk assessment is undertaken by a competent individual and implement any resulting actions before continuing work.
- All staff and contractors who specify, manage, plan, authorise and carry out manual handling activities relating to the delivery, installation, renewal or disposal of troughing materials must comply in full with the guidance of the HSE manual handling [MAC assessment tool](#) or a suitable equivalent.
- If your work involves any equivalent risk with other loads that you move manually, apply the same controls, derived from risk assessment.