

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident

Robel orbital hand tamper failure

Issued to: All Network Rail line managers, safety professionals and RISQS registered contractors

Ref: NRA 16/03

Date of issue: 13/04/2016

Location: Finsbury Park DU

Contact: [Rashid Wahidi](#), Head of Plant and T&RS

Figure 1 damaged weld (un-modified shaft)



Figure 2 Modified Reinforced Shaft

Overview

On 3 April 2016 a report was received regarding a failure to the shaft of a 62.05 Robel orbital hand tamper whilst consolidating ballast at New Barnet.

This failure resulted in a wrist injury to the operator. Following investigation it has been identified that the weld around the base of the shaft had cracked resulting in a catastrophic failure of the weld.

The possibility of a future failure to unmodified equipment presents a significant risk to operator safety. Therefore all users and maintainers must quarantine all unmodified tampers (figure 1) immediately.

Tampers fitted with the modified reinforced shaft (figure 2) can remain in use following thorough inspection around the weld and flange area looking for signs of cracking and deformation.

Immediate action required

- All Robel 62.05 orbital tampers are to be inspected prior to their next use. The visual inspection should focus on the weld and flange areas of the shaft.
- Immediately quarantine all Robel 62.05 orbital tampers that are not fitted with the modified shaft (figure 1) and return them to the supplier pending modification.
- Robel 62.05 orbital tampers with a shaft modified with a reinforced collar (figure 2) and confirmed as undamaged may return to service.

Copies of Safety Advises are available on [Safety Central](#).