

Changes to Sentinel OTP Miscellaneous Module 2, Group 2

As a result of an investigation of the Ashby incident (detailed in IGS bulletin 249) and subsequent ORR recommendation, Ballast Distribution Unit, Ploughs and Blades are required to be added to the scope of Machine Controller Miscellaneous Module 2, Group 2 competence. Previously, this competency only included Ballast Brooms. From 1st March 2012, only Miscellaneous Module 2, Group 2 competent personnel will be permitted to control Ballast Distribution Units, Ballast Brooms, Ploughs and Blades.

Any person currently competent in Miscellaneous Module 2, Group 2 will be required to attend a briefing to enhance their competence to include the ballast attachments. The briefing will consist of Miscellaneous Module 2, Group 2—December 2011 issue.

Employing organisations shall identify and authorize suitable and competent individuals to deliver the Miscellaneous Module 2, Group 2 brief to current competent personal using Miscellaneous Module 2, Group 2—December 2011 issue. Upon completion of the briefing, a record shall be retained by the organization to confirm completion and the Sentinel records of all those briefing will be updated to reflect the additional attachments. Those people not briefing by the 1st March 2012 shall have their competence suspended until the brief has been completed.

Aggregate Industries—Silica Exposure

Bardon Contracting was the Principal Contractor at a town centre site and the Health & Safety Executive stopped to enquire what controls were in place to prevent exposure to respirable silica dust when cutting curbs using a Stihl Saw.

All Labour Only Suppliers who believe their employees will wear disposable masks will complete 'Fit to Fit' training to ensure that all operatives know to shave prior to wearing a mask, how and why to fit it correctly and when to change a mask. In recognising the transient nature of the employees this training is recommended during the Health & Safety induction (day 1). Bardon Contracting will ensure a continuous supply of water to suppress silica dust at source and will provide disposable respiratory protection.

IGS 256—Derailment within Summit Tunnel as a result of falling ice

On 28th December 2010, a train became derailed within Summit Tunnel, 15 miles north of Manchester as a result of hitting a large quantity of ice falling from one of the tunnel's air shafts onto the track below. Although the train derailed, it remained upright and coupled together and there were no injuries to passengers on board.

A significant amount of ice had accumulated in the air shaft during a prolonged period of unprecedented low temperatures that led to the closure of the track in this area for a number of days prior to this event. During this period incoming ground water was able to freeze over within the air shaft. As temperatures slowly began to rise the ice started to thaw, dislodged and fell onto the track.

Any staff who maybe working within tunnels this winter should be briefed on the contents of this bulletin and reminded that if they notice significant quantities of ice building up within tunnels they are to report this situation to the controlling signaller and the appropriate Route Control, so as to enable Maintenance Fault Teams to undertake an appropriate inspection.

Invensys OHSE Alert—Undetected—Cable Threats

Be aware cable thefts with a difference are taking place which leave an extremely dangerous situation which presents a serious risk to life to anyone inadvertently disturbing this arrangement.

Thieves have stolen lengths of the 95mm 650V 3 core feeder cable and have wound a length domestic twin and earth cable has been wounded onto exposed cores live at 650V and then copper distribution cable cut out and removed.

As a result the train service is not affected. If any unusual circumstances are discovered with the installed cables during works, works must be stopped and the maintainer contacted to check and validate before work re-starts.

