

	Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Alert	Alert number: 26-14	Document Reference: RSS/F/HSQE/001
	IP Track Delivery Alert	Issue Date: 27/08/14	Author: Steve Milroy

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Restriction in the use of Lookout Operated Warning System (LOWS) as a primary source of protection for track workers.

For the attention of those involved with the planning and authorising the use of LOWS for track worker protection.

Background:

On Wednesday 30th July IP Track Delivery took the decision to suspend the use of LOWS due to immediate safety concerns over workforce safety.

Further updated on the 5th August. Since this suspension, we have had several discussions with our Project teams, Amey Colas and RSS Ltd with a view to identifying further improvement areas.

We can now confirm that LOWS equipment can only be used as a primary source of protection on IP Track work providing the following conditions are strictly adhered to:

- The work is directly in relation to High Output Core Track Renewals works or the restressing of High Output Track Renewals activity only
- The equipment is Schweizer Minime kit and that the company operating the kit is RSS Ltd
- That the Improvement Plan being undertaken by RSS Ltd is routinely (weekly) reviewed jointly by both RSS Ltd and Amey Colas for adequacy
- That clear and documented evidence of the application of the hierarchy of controls in the 019 standard has been strictly adhered to (with effort demonstrated at every level prior to incrementally dropping down the hierarchy – Absolute block, Line Blocks, Treadle based ATWS etc)
- That management information is kept and provided to the NR IP Track Director, Safety and Assurance, periodically by Route to enable discussion on Track Worker risk and adequacy of protection available
- Review of the planned updates and implementation of other LOWS equipment will be conducted as and when they become available
- That routine but independent Audits are undertaken and documented by the Principal Contractor and Network Rail IP Track to ensure the above requirements are adhered to