

	Health, Safety, Quality and Environmental Alert	Alert number: 29-14	Document Reference: RSS/F/HSQE/001
	Temporary Suspension within High Output of Use of LOWS to Provide Primary Protection	Issue Date: 01/10/14	Author: Steve Milroy

(To be posted on HSQE Notice Boards for a Period of 1 MONTH from date of issue)

Near Miss on a High Output Worksite on 30/09/2014

Minor follow-up work for TOC had been planned to take place during daytime under 'assisted lookout' protection. After the Zollner LOWS (version 1.5) had been setup and tested the radio signal detection was lost on several occasions. The system was then re-started and authorisation was given to start work. As the first person in the group began to access the track a train was observed to be approaching the site but no warning was given by the system. He moved quickly back into a position of safety and no injuries resulted.

Although the investigation is ongoing we don't, as yet, fully understand the underlying and root causes associated with the processes for planning and deployment as they relate to this near miss.

Action to be Taken:

- Pending conclusion of the investigation, ameycolas have taken the decision to temporarily suspend the ordering and use of both Zollner and Schweizer LOWS to provide primary protection for staff
- Every effort should be made during the planning stage to undertake work within available possessions, under line blocks, behind fences / barriers or separated by distance (green zone). Please liaise with your Network Rail Programme Manager as necessary to discuss track access requirements and availability
- Those planning work are reminded that the requirements of ameycolas procedure *AC-HSEA-009 – Track SSoW Requirements & Justification of Red Zone Working* must be followed. You must obtain prior authorisation from the relevant Operations Manager for open line (red zone) working if you consider that safeguarded, fenced or separated protection is not available or practical
- The use of Automatic Track Warning System (ATWS) to provide primary protection and LOWS (if ATWS is not practical) for provision of secondary protection on High Output sites is not affected
-

Note: Ongoing trials of Track Warning Systems to obtain approval for use with radio based treadles (SATWS) will continue under agreed control arrangements.



Always be sure the required plans and permits are in place, before you start a job or go on or near the line.