



Work Safety Alert Run over by a Maintenance Train

- 1. Date of Accident :** May 2017
- 2. Place of Accident :** A train depot
- 3. Summary :**

A worker was suspected to have been run over by a maintenance train and sustained fatal injury while he was on his way to carry out rail maintenance work.

4. Work Safety Alert for Proprietors/ Employers :

To prevent any workers/ employees engaged in rail maintenance work from being endangered by maintenance trains in motion, the proprietors/ employers should provide and maintain a safe system of work which should include, but not limited to, the following:

- appointing a competent person to conduct task-specific risk assessments to identify all potential hazards associated with working on or adjacent to railway lines, taking into account the working environment and nature of work, particularly maintenance trains in motion on railway line;
- implementing a permit-to-work system to prohibit any person from entering into/ working on or adjacent to railway lines unless suitable and adequate steps have been taken to ensure that the railway lines are cleared of maintenance trains in motion;
- establishing an effective monitoring system to ensure that no maintenance trains are in motion unless the railway lines are cleared of workers;
- establishing an effective communication system among the workers of the maintenance team to ensure that the maintenance train is not in motion unless the entire team is on board;



- ensuring that every worker/ employee who is permitted to enter into the railway line is wearing a reflective vest with high visibility so that they can be easily seen;
- installing suitable safety devices on maintenance trains such as closed-circuit televisions or side mirrors to enhance the operator's views on both sides of the trains and equipping the trains with audio/visual alarms to alert passersby to its motion;
- ensuring that every place where workers perform work is adequately and suitably lit to the extent necessary to enable everybody concerned has a clear view of the place;
- ensuring that a maintenance train is only operated by a person who holds a valid certificate relevant to the type of the train and is competent to operate the trains by virtue of his experience;
- providing all workers/ employees involved with necessary safety information, instruction and training to ensure that the safe work practices are adopted for any work on railway lines; and
- establishing and implementing an effective monitoring and control system to ensure the above safety measures are strictly followed.

5. Reference :

- [Safe Systems of Work¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Risk Assessment¹](#)
- [Five Steps to Information, Instruction and Training¹](#)
- [A Guide to the Factories and Industrial Undertakings \(Loadshifting Machinery\) Regulation¹](#)

¹ Click to view document



DISCLAIMER

This Work Safety Alert (“the Alert”) is issued at the earliest possible opportunity after a serious accident with a view to drawing the attention of interested parties to the general safety precautionary measures necessary to protect people engaging in similar work activities. The material contained in the Alert constitutes general guidance only. It does not reduce, limit, or replace, any legal obligations upon any person to comply with any statutory duties under relevant legislation. Users such as Managers and Supervisors should make their own evaluation of the information contained in the Alert to determine if it can be applied to their own situations and practices. The Labour Department does NOT accept any responsibilities for any loss or damage resulting from the use of or failure to use of the information on the Alert.

Note: The material contained in the Alert is not exhaustive, and will be supplemented/adjusted where necessary if more relevant information comes to light.