

Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident



Failures of Seaward 750V DC live line testers

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

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Location: National

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Overview

The manufacturers of the Seaward Live Line Tester (LLT) used by staff on the 750V DC electrified network have advised that there are a small number of units in circulation that have a manufacturing defect that can result in the tester being polarity sensitive. The result is that the tester can, depending on which contact is applied to the conductor rail, give a "dead" indication when the rail is in fact still live. As designed, the tester is not polarity sensitive and can be applied either way round.

Advice provided by Seaward is that the Live Line Tester should be proved both ways round on the proving unit to confirm correct operation prior to, and after, use. Not doing so may result in a tester with a fault appearing to indicate correctly when proved, then, if reversed, indicate incorrectly when applied to a conductor rail that is still live.

While a campaign check and certification of units that have been tested and found to be correct is being arranged the following advice must be followed with immediate effect.

Immediate action required

- All staff involved in conductor rail testing for any reason and using a Seaward LLT shall test the unit for correct operation against the proving unit both ways round before testing the conductor rail, and again afterwards.
- Any Seaward LLT units that show a live indication when applied to the proving unit one way round, and not when applied the opposite way round, shall be withdrawn from use, quarantined and returned to Seaward for replacement. For Network Rail staff, this should be via the responsible E&PME.

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