



Wessex Route: Title: Use of Hand Trolleys.

Incident

On 26th November a PICOP attempted to handback Possession WON Item 38 with a track circuit failure. It subsequently transpired a hand trolley had been left by a Works Delivery team on site at 11m 11ch on the Up Main Slow, the BML1.

Points to note:

- During the ES briefing it was not made clear to the ES a hand trolley was in use.
- During handover of the work activity shift to subsequent PiC/COSS the presence of the hand trolley was not passed on.
- The hand trolley was not displaying a red flag or a red light visible in both directions, consequently it was not visible to any other parties who were in the vicinity and may have noted the existence of the hand trolley before the worksite had been given up.
- Fortunately, the line was not opened for operational trains.



[Trolley without red flag or light; not acceptable.](#)

Handbook 10 Duties of the COSS or SWL and person in charge when using a hand trolley

States:

1. A competent person must always be appointed to be in charge of the trolley when it is in use.
2. If you are a COSS working within a possession, you must agree with the ES when you can allow a trolley to be placed on the line.
3. A red flag or red light is displayed on the trolley visible in both directions.

Action to be taken

Below is a complete reminder of the full 'duties of the person in charge of the trolley' please discuss and understand that failure to comply with any of these duties would constitute an unsafe act.

3 Duties of the person in charge of the trolley

The person in charge of the trolley must make sure that:

- the trolley's braking system has been tested and is in good order
- the COSS or SWL has given permission before the trolley is put on the line
- the trolley is not placed on or used on a line which has a gradient greater than 1 in 50, unless specially authorised in local instructions
- the trolley is correctly loaded
- the trolley is not overloaded
- no-one rides on the trolley
- the trolley, or its load, does not foul any other line
- the trolley has at least two people with it when moving and one of them must be in charge of the brake
- a red flag or red light is displayed on the trolley - the flag or light must be visible in both directions
- when not being used, the trolley is placed well clear of the line and if left unattended, the trolley must be secured so it cannot be moved.