

Chris O'Doherty
RAIB Relationship and Recommendation Handling
Manager

Telephone: 020 7282 3752

e-mail: chris.o'doherty@orr.gsi.gov.uk



18 December 2013

Ms Carolyn Griffiths
Chief Inspector of Rail Accidents
Rail Accident Investigation Branch
Block A, 2nd Floor
Dukes Court
Dukes Street
Woking GU21 5BH

Dear Carolyn,

Fatal accident at Halkirk level crossing, Caithness

On 17 July 2012 I wrote and informed you that recommendation 1 was in the process of being implemented. I now write to report and update on the further consideration given and the action taken in relation to this recommendation.

On 27 June 2012 Network Rail advised that: ...The action to update NR/L3/SIG/10663 is logged within the Professional Head of Signal Engineering work bank and it is also due to be completed by 31 March 2013 and that as an interim measure Network Rail had produced a 'Notice Board, titled: Level Crossing Road Light Backboards', which applied to all level crossing road light backboards, to be issued on 18 August 2011 to assist staff carrying out inspections of level crossing road light backboards to determine when action is required to restore good contrast between a lit road light and the black colour of the backboard itself

On 25 October 2013 Network Rail further advised that it had published standard NR/L3SIG/10663 Signal Maintenance Specification NR/SMS/LC11 Road Lights and Audible Warnings (Issue No. 6, Issue date 2 March 2013, compliance date 7 September 2013).

Network Rail has provided ORR with a copy of the Standard which is attached to this letter for your information. ORR has considered the standard and can confirm that its content implements the recommendation as it enhances the maintenance and inspection instructions relating to road traffic light signals, with the objective of ensuring that the backboards to level crossing road traffic light signals are maintained to provide the best possible contrast between a lit red light unit and its backboard.

This completes the on-going action, reported on 17 July 2013, to update standard NR/L3/SIG/10663 Signal Maintenance Specifications. And therefore we now consider this recommendation to be implemented .

We expect to publish this response on the ORR website on 10 January 2014. Any comments you have would be appreciated by 31 December 2013.

Yours Sincerely

Chris O'Doherty