Important Safety Notice - Queensland Rail

Workplace managers and supervisors must communicate this information to affected workers either face to face, via email or telephone within 72 hours of it being received. Safety and Environment Communication Delivery Verification Form MD-13-560 is to be completed and LMS administrator to add verification to workers' training history as per Safety and Environment Communications Standard MD-12-56.

Issue date: 23/03/2023
Expiry date: 23/09/2023 To be removed from the safety and environment notice board.

Temporary traction bonding requirements for cutting rails in electrified areas

Attention: Project managers, managers and supervisors of workers who need to cut rail in electrified areas, workers who need to cut rail in electrified areas and safety facilitators.

Background

A recent review of the Rail Industry Worker (RIW) system records appears to indicate that few contractors who may be required to cut rails hold a mandatory current accreditation to do the task safely (temporary traction bonding training).

What hazards need to be addressed? In electrified areas (including yards) traction rails carry traction return current. When rails are cut, workers can be exposed to electric shock and burns if relevant risk controls are not implemented correctly. Temporary traction bonds must be applied by a competent accredited worker before rails are cut to address electrical hazards.

What competency requirements apply to ensure safe outcomes?

Temporary traction bonding training is available to help relevant workers identify hazards and apply risk controls (including adequate inspection and use of equipment). This training accreditation must be recorded on the electric traction safety (green) card. For contractors, this accreditation needs to be recorded in the RIW system. This safety requirement is specified by the Electric Traction Systems Standard ETSS MD-10-191 Module 8.

Figure 1: Electric traction safety (green) card highlighting where the temporary traction bonding accreditation is recorded

Figure 2: Example of duplicate temporary traction bonds installed before cutting traction rails in electrified corridors.

How do I organise training for my workers?

Temporary traction bonding training can be organised by contacting AssetTrainingDelivery@qr.com.au. Each course can train eight workers. Courses run for eight hours (including theory and practical assessments). Workers need to hold current WET, CPR and SARC accreditation to participate in this training. The cost of the course is $550 per nomination (GST inclusive).

For further information contact: Network Asset Training Mailbox: AssetTrainingDelivery@qr.com.au
Issued by Francisco Siliezar, Electrical Discipline Head
LMS course type: 134456

Actions to be taken:

Managers and supervisors must:

a. Verify that their relevant workers hold the temporary traction bonding safety accreditation required or
b. Ensure competent accredited workers apply relevant risk controls before cutting rails for their works.
c. Ensure accreditation is lodged in LMS for Queensland Rail Workers.
d. Ensure accreditation is lodged in RIW for contractors.
e. Organise training (via AssetTrainingDelivery@qr.com.au) as required.
f. Include this hazard topic, as required, on their SEMS planners to verify adequate equipment and procedures are applied for works under their control.
g. If a site audit or inspection identifies non-compliances with the safety requirements specified in ETSS MD-10-191, then pause and re-start work (in accordance with MD-12-87) to ensure competent/accredited workers and procedures are available to undertake work safely.

A detailed audit will be scheduled to confirm the state of RIW records within six months.

What equipment do accredited workers need to install temporary bonds (before cutting rail in electrified areas)?

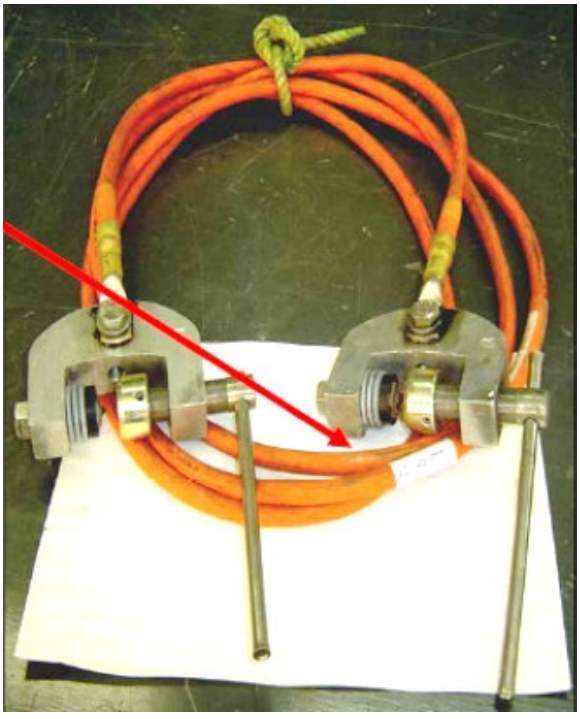

Figure 3: Temporary traction bonds. Bonds need to be labelled to confirm adequate rating and tagged to record inspection and electrical testing due date. Testing of bonds needs to be undertaken by a licensed electrical worker using approved electrical test procedures.

Figure 4: Class 1 insulated glove sets (including leather outer and cotton inner protection). Gloves need to be adequately rated and tagged to confirm inspection and electrical testing due date.