

Category 2 Standard

S2543
(Formerly E7161)

Maintenance of Point Heaters

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1 Purpose

- 1.1 This standard defines the minimum maintenance requirements for point heaters and associated equipment used on London Underground.
- 1.2 Point heating is used to enable reliable point use throughout the winter period. Snow and ice can prevent normal switch movement and cause serious train service disruptions.

2 Scope

- 2.1 This standard covers electric pad, cartridge and electric strip point heaters. Workshop overhaul is not covered by this standard.
- 2.2 This standard is directed at the Asset Steward, and replaces E7161 A4.

3 Requirements

3.1 Safety considerations

3.1.1 System safety

- 3.1.1.1 Point heaters help to ensure the reliable operation of points. Points are safety critical assets. In the event of failure, the safety of train movement would be degraded through the enforced use of manual procedures for control of train movements. A direct safety hazard may exist if undetected spring trailing points become frozen.

3.1.2 Personal safety

- 3.1.2.1 Point mechanisms and other associated equipment are situated in the four foot or near the track. A safe system of work must therefore be devised and followed for all maintenance activities, taking account of statutory requirements and London Underground rules to guard against the consequent hazards including items such as electric shock, moving trains, hazardous substances.
- 3.1.2.2 Safety equipment must be appropriate for the task concerned, and maintained in accordance with the appropriate standards.

3.1.3 Environmental safety

- 3.1.3.1 All maintenance activities including vegetation control, disposal of lubricants and toxic waste, utilisation of energy and materials, shall be carried out in compliance with present statutory environmental legislation, codes of practice and London Underground Health, Safety and Environment Policy. Assets shall be assessed to identify products and waste that can be reused, recycled or rendered harmless and any discharges controlled to minimise their environmental impact during the whole maintenance procedure. Notwithstanding the above, any specific references to environmental requirements within this standard shall also be observed.