

SECTION 218

PERMANENT WAY SMALL PLANT, TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT

Permanent Way small plant, tools and equipment generally

- 1** Any safety device fitted to portable plant shall be tested before the plant is taken onto the track and shall remain fully operational whilst the unit is in use.

When not in use, small plant, tools and equipment shall be placed minimum 3.0 metres clear of the rails, unless below rail level. Special care shall be taken in the case of lightweight tools and equipment, which may be moved by the draught of passing trains.

When the relevant Railway Group Standard requires a particular item of plant, tool or equipment to be maintained, examined, tested and operated by competent persons, copies of all certification of Contractor's personnel deemed competent shall be available for audit.

On completion of work during a shift, or at the end of the day's work, all small tools shall be collected and stored clear of the lines. Larger items, such as generators, shall be secured clear of the lines to ground anchors or chained and padlocked to a fixed structure, if locked accommodation is not available, to ensure such equipment cannot be placed on the track by vandals.

(218.001)

Inspection and certification of tools and equipment

- 2** All items of powered plant, lifting equipment, jacks and hydraulic equipment to be used shall be examined, tested and certified as fit for purpose at intervals not less than that specified by the manufacturer or in the relevant Railway Group Standards whichever is the less.

(218.002)

Equipment for moving rails Pulling devices

- 3** Pulling devices for moving rails shall be certified and marked with a minimum Safe Working Load (S.W.L.) as shown in Table 218/1.

Table 218/1	
Rail pulling device minimum S.W.L.	Length of rail to be pulled
1.5 tonnes	up to 36 m
2.5 tonnes	up to 91 m
5.0 tonnes	up to 183 m

Pulling devices shall be used under the following conditions:

- (i) the track to which the pulling device is anchored shall be under an absolute possession,
- (ii) pulling shall cease when warning is given of an approaching train on a line open to rail traffic, and the pulling device shall be kept clear of any line open to rail traffic,
- (iii) only fixed rails shall be used as an anchorage, and during pulling the track being used as the anchorage point shall not be disturbed.

Hydraulic tensors designed for the stressing of rail shall not be used as pulling devices for moving rails.

Rail turning bars

Rails shall only be turned using approved rail turning bars.

Rail turning bars that currently have Railtrack's approval are as follows:

- (i) Mills rail manipulating bar with handle made from hollow steel tube,
- (ii) Stockton Heath forge bar in accordance with LMR drawing No. 737 - 75D,
- (iii) Permaquip RB9 tube end piece in accordance with drawings Nos. D2131/2 and E2249/2.

Should the Contractor wish to use a rail turning bar not previously approved by Railtrack, full details of the proposed rail turning bar shall be submitted to the Employer's Representative for approval to show that the proposed rail turning bar is equivalent in all respects, and the proposed rail turning bar shall not be used in the Works until Railtrack's approval has been obtained. Allowance for such approval procedures shall be deemed to be included in the Contract programme.

(218.003)

Mechanical and hydraulic track jacks

- 4** Track jacks shall not damage the rail, shall lock at any height, shall be able to be handled and operated by one person, and shall be of a type as defined in Railway Group Standard GC/OG0013.

Track jacks shall be marked with their unique identification number, safe working load, and the date on which the next examination/test is due. Records shall be kept of track jack identification numbers, and date of last examination for audit purposes.

Track jacks shall be maintained, tested and used with a safe system of work by competent Contractor's personnel, all in accordance with Railway Group Standard GC/OG0013. The method of working shall ensure the removal of such jacks from the track in sufficient time to permit the safe passage of traffic. Jacks shall be kept upright in use and whenever practicable applied to the back or non-gauge face of the rail except on 3rd or 4th rail electrified track. Jacks shall not be used directly under any rail joint. Obstructionless jacks shall be released for the passage of traffic.

Only obstructionless track jacks as defined in Railway Group Standard GC/OG0013 shall be used for maintenance of the track.

(218.004)

Loose lifting tackle

- 5** Loose lifting tackle shall comply with and shall be used with a safe system of work in accordance with Railway Group Standard GC/OG0021.

(218.005)