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A9 Load Criteria Levels

Certain categories of traffic can only be accepted for conveyance after examination by a suitably qualified member of staff. The competence level required for traffic types is specified within each loading pattern. There are three levels of examination;

- Loader - This level of examination is for infrastructure bulk traffics and other loose materials loaded in to sided wagons.
- Load Examined – This level of examination is for infrastructure traffics loaded on to open type wagons. Traffic can only be accepted for conveyance after they have been examined by a holder of a certificate of competency authorising that person to examine and label one or more load types.
- Loading Standards – This level of examination is for loads where there is no loading pattern currently published. This mainly involves new loads, trial loads, out of gauge loads, 'one off' loads and resolving non compliant loads following incident or irregularity.

A9.1 Load Examined

This traffic may only be examined by a holder of a certificate of competency endorsed with Loading Standards.

- Any load type that requires Load Examined labels shall be labelled.
- Information entered onto labels must be accurate and complete in all respects. Labels shall bear the signature and name in block capitals of the person examining the load. The signature on the label certifies that the load has been examined and certified as being properly loaded and secured.
- Labels are only valid for the particular load that has been examined on the date shown on the label.
- Loads that are disturbed, no matter to what degree, shall be re-examined and re-labelled.
- Re-examination and re-labelling shall only be carried out by a holder of a valid Certificate of Competency.
- Labels shall be removed from wagons when loads have been partially discharged or the securing equipment, dunnage or load has been altered.
- The labels are not valid if the label has been altered in anyway, if the information is incomplete, or if the signature and the printed name has not been entered on the label.
- The label should not normally be left on a loaded wagon for longer than 7 days. The longer a load is left the more chance there is of vandalism or the load being altered in some way.
- The wagon must be released to TOPS using the special handling code EXA.
- Labels should be completed in a thick soft lead pencil.

A9.1.1 When Load Examined labels should be applied

- All wagons fitted with temporary equipment such as bolsters, timbers, floors, cradles or any other temporary modifications shall be considered as being Load Examined traffic.
- All loads, irrespective of wagon type, secured by straps or tensioners and straps attached in non standard locations on the wagon or loads secured by non standard equipment shall be considered as being at least Load Examined traffic.
- Any load that can only be supplied with limited load restraint, shall be treated as Load Examined traffic.
- Loads not contained in the length, width or height of stanchions/doors (unless specifically exempt) shall travel under Load Examined conditions.
- Rails loaded on more than one wagon where the only "condition of travel" is "SHUNTEX" shall travel under Load Examined conditions.
- When stated on the Loading Pattern load exam labels shall be affixed to each wagon.

Figure 1 – Example of a load exam label

Network Rail LOAD EXAMINED		USE BLOCK LETTERS THIS LOAD HAS BEEN EXAMINED & CERTIFIED AS BEING PROPERLY LOADED AND SECURED
FROM TO	LOAD DETAILS INCLUDING WEIGHT	
DATE OF EXAMINATION	Signature	
WAGON NUMBER	Print Name	
NO AUTHORITY OTHER THAN THE SIGNATURE OF THE EXAMINER OR OFFICER CERTIFYING THE LOAD AS PROPERLY LOADED AND SECURED IS NECESSARY FOR THE MOVEMENT OF THIS LOAD THIS LABEL IS VALID FOR 1 JOURNEY ONLY - RE-EXAMINATION IS THEN REQUIRED		

A9.2 Exceptional Loads

The acceptance and conveyance of Exceptional Loads is subject to special arrangements, which shall be agreed before the traffic is accepted.

Affix Exceptional Load labels to each affected wagon .

Figure 2 – Example of exceptional load label