

Operations of vehicles fitted with wheelskates	Ref:	NR/L3/NSC/313/SP-4.05
	Issue:	1
	Date:	05 December 2015
	Compliance date:	01 April 2016

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1 Purpose

This module enables Network Rail to confirm that appropriate arrangements are in place for when OTMs are required to be fitted with wheelskates.

2 Scope

This module:

- a) specifies the requirements for the accreditation of suppliers who fit wheelskates to Network Rail on-track machines (OTMs); and
- b) provides instructions for the operation of vehicles to which wheelskates have been fitted.

It applies to:

- a) all suppliers who are accredited to fit wheelskates to Network Rail OTMs;
- b) all movements of Network Rail vehicles to which wheelskates have been fitted.

3 Definition

Term	Explanation
RST (rolling stock technician)	A person who is authorised and has the necessary technical competence to examine or repair specified items of equipment forming part of a OTM or vehicle (within Technical Services this would be the running maintenance technician or operator maintainer). In this module, this is the contractor's staff fitting the Wheelskate.
Wheelskate	A device for rescuing crippled vehicles where a wheelset is not fit to rotate, by lifting the affected wheelset and providing alternative support and guidance.

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4 Roles and responsibilities

4.1 Business Support Manager

The Business Support Manager shall confirm that suppliers who fit wheelskates to Network Rail rolling stock are accredited as an approved supplier.

4.2 OTM Operator

The OTM Operator shall undertake the checks and communications in section 5.2 prior to any movement.

5 Procedure

5.1 Supplier accreditation

The Business Support Manager shall confirm that suppliers who fit wheelskates to Network Rail rolling stock are accredited as an approved supplier.

As part of the supplier accreditation process these documents shall be examined:

- a) certificates of conformance for design and maintenance, and certificates of engineering acceptance;
- b) the maintenance plan for the wheelskates including:
 - bearing lubrication prior to, during and following use;
 - inspection of the wheelskate for damage prior to, during and following use;
 - maintenance of wheel wear limits;
 - inspection of wheel tread for damage prior to, during and following use.
- c) a statement of those vehicle classes with which each type of wheelskate is compatible;
- d) fitting instructions, including the maximum height to which the vehicle is to be jacked to maintain the vehicle within its designed swept envelope;
- e) operating instructions which state the safe operating speed of the wheelskate;
- f) competence records for staff fitting wheelskates;
- g) a risk assessment for the fitment and operation of wheelskates. This shall take into account the risks when using wheelskates over obtuse crossings and the risks when moving units fitted with Track Circuit Actuator.

5.2 General requirements for the movement of vehicles on wheelskates

If a wheelskate is fitted to a Network Rail vehicle, the Engineering on-call manager shall confirm that:

- a) fitment is carried out in accordance with the requirements of this clause; and
- b) a member of the Network Rail OTM team accompanies the move when the unit is moved with a wheelskate fitted.

NOTE This is in addition to the external contractors fitting staff accompanying the move.