

Infrastructure Plant Manual

Module P517 – Handling rail

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0.1 Job roles

This module is applicable to the following job roles, you must familiarise yourself with all of the clauses contained within it to understand your personal responsibilities. If you intend to carry out any of these roles you must hold the relevant Sentinel competency:

- Machine Operator
- Crane Controller
- Machine Controller
- COSS
- ES
- Planner
- Lift Planner
- Plant Operator License Holders
- Plant supplier

0.2 Risk mitigation

This module helps mitigate the following high level risks:

- a) compliance with legislation (LOLER, PUWER, HASAW);
- b) collision, e.g. collision between a RRV and an OTM;
- c) overturning, e.g. RRV overturning during lifting operations;
- d) damage to assets, e.g. RRV or its load hitting a passing train during ALO operation;
- e) derailment, e.g. trailer being loaded incorrectly;
- f) staff injuries, e.g. Operator being trapped between machine and infrastructure or machine and machine.

1 General

Rail lifting operations are to be carried out in such a manner to prevent damage or distortion to the rails.

Only use lifting equipment to handle rail that has:

- Network Rail approval (product acceptance) that is appropriate for the rail section, rail-head condition, method of lifting and proposed further use of the rail;
- the capacity to undertake the duties proposed;
- a rated capacity indicator fitted.

Plan and undertake lifting operations in accordance with NR/PLANT/0200/modules P503 and P516, using Table 1 to select the principle method of handling the rail.

Rail Length	Pick & Lift (see Section 7)	Pick & Carry (see Section 8)	Thimbling (see Section 9)	Lifting Accessory
Up to 6m	Yes	Yes	No	Chains, Camloks, Web slings Approved rail lifting beams
6m to 20m	Yes	Yes	No	Beams required with 2 Camloks or Web-slings, Approved rail lifting beams.
20m to 90m Not Bullhead	Yes Laterally only	No	No	Thimble (Max. height of lift 500mm)
Above 90m Not Bullhead	Yes Laterally only	No	Yes	

NOTE 1 Where the rail being lifting is bullhead section arrangements should be made to verify the rail can be retained safely in the upright position.

NOTE 2 Chains should not come into contact with any part of the rail during lifting operations.

Table 1 – Principle method of handling rail based on rail length

2 Lifting rails

Log grabs and grapples are not to be used when lifting new or serviceable rail, but may be used:

- if they have been product accepted and meet legislation to handle rail **and**
- where rail has been confirmed as scrap, **and**
- only single 20ft sections of scrap rail are lifted at any one time.