

### Target audience:

Persons undertaking work within the rail corridor.

### The Issue:

There have been numerous incidents reported in the past three years relating to workers receiving an electric shock from work activities performed that created an electrical conductive path. Within the rail corridor, use of conductive tape between rail and another conductive material, such as the adjacent rail, wet or damp timber/ concrete sleepers or surfaces, and other track and conductive equipment, can result in connection to ground (e.g. earth), creating an electrical conductive path.



### Conductive tape hazards:

This Safety Advice highlights the following hazards presented by the use of conductive steel tapes, metal reinforced linen tapes and long steel rulers within the rail corridor:

- Making contact with live exposed electrical equipment resulting in arc flash and or electric shock;
- Forming a short circuit between signal rail and traction rail;
- Forming a short circuit between metal objects or conductive objectives that might be at different electrical potentials and exposing the operator to a potential electric shock. For example:
  - between overhead wiring structures and rail (or vehicles on rail); or
  - between structures and fencing or metallic troughing; or
  - between rail and any metallic fixed and temporary structure e.g. bridge Structures, fences, GST, station platforms, handrails, scaffolding etc.



### What you must do

- Only use non-conductive measuring equipment within the rail corridor.
- If you require a tape to be used within the rail corridor, please obtain a non-conductive tape measure that is approved on the catalogue e.g. *Blackwood's Eslon 3m non-conductive tape measure*.

Contact your Safety Representative or Line Manager if you have any questions.



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