

**Engineering System Integrity
Electrical Network Safety Rules**

**Engineering Specification
Electrical Distribution Unit**

One Method of Safe Working

SP D 79045

**Inspection and Care of Portable
Rail Connecting Equipment for
1500 Volt Overhead Wiring**

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Approved by: Associate Director
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Document control

Version	Date	Author/ Prin. Eng.	Summary of change
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1.1	9 February 2026	Nick Loveday	Periodic review October 2025, republished with no changes.

Document history (previously PR D 78307)

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1.1	14 April 2016	Chris Leung	Updated document to latest ASA Standard
1.2	19 February 2019	Nick Loveday	Updated PR D 78307 "Approved by" to Associate Director Electrical Distribution Unit

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1 Purpose and scope

The purpose of this specification is to ensure that employees are aware and comply with the requirements for the correct treatment of the portable rail connecting equipment.

Portable rail connecting equipment consists of assemblies of insulated flexible cables and clamps and suitable insulated handles or sticks, which are used for connecting de-energised 1500 Volt Overhead Wiring (OHW) to rail.

This specification sets out the requirements for the inspection, testing, maintenance, storage and disposal of the portable rail connecting equipment for the OHW.

This procedure applies to all Sydney Trains employees trained and assessed to be competent in the use of the rail connecting equipment for the OHW.

2 Definitions

Refer to the **Electrical Safety Definitions** page available on the **RailSafe** site.

3 Configuration of portable rail connecting equipment

3.1 Portable rail connecting equipment

The equipment consists of:

- A 4-metre long two piece insulated operating stick.
- An insulated cable with an OHW connection clamp at one end, and a rail clamp at the other end of this cable. The OHW connection clamp is attached to the insulated operating stick by means of a spring loaded slot in the end of the operating stick which receives the bayonet fitting on the OHW connection clamp. Refer to drawing EL0004233.

Refer to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) standard *EP 95 20 00 06 SI Methods of Rail Connecting 1500 Volt Overhead Wiring* for detailed requirements for portable rail connecting equipment.

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3.2 Identification and labelling

Complete portable rail connecting equipment that have an existing label shall be maintained.

Each new major component of the complete portable rail connecting equipment is to be clearly and indelibly labelled with a unique identifier to take the following form:

- “ST-“, *then*
- A prefix as detailed in Sections 3.2.1 to 3.2.5 below, *then*
- A dash “-“, *then*
- A unique 5 digit identification number.

It is important that identification of each major component of the portable rail connecting equipment remains intact during the life of the equipment, as it shall be referred to and recorded when routine tests are performed to determine the integrity of the equipment.

(Examples are given below, using the identification number “12345”).

3.2.1 OHW Connection Clamp

Prefix “CC” to be used.

The OHW connection clamp is to be clearly and indelibly marked (engraved) with an identifier as above, with letters at least 5 mm tall, at a location on the clamp that can be readily noticed.

Example: ST-CC-12345

3.2.2 Rail Clamp

Prefix “RC” to be used.

The rail clamp is to be clearly and indelibly marked (engraved) with an identifier as above, with letters at least 5 mm tall, at a location on the clamp that can be readily noticed.

Example: ST-RC-12345

3.2.3 Cable

Prefix “CA” to be used.

The cable is to be clearly and indelibly marked with an identifier as above.

The lettering is to be at least 10 mm tall and of a contrasting colour to the cable insulation.

The labels are to be located 1 metre from each end of the cable and are to be protected by the transparent heatshrink that extends at least 50 mm on either side of the lettering (refer drawing EL0004233).

Example: ST-CA-12345

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3.2.4 Insulated Stick

Prefix “IS” to be used, and a suffix “T” or “B” added to identify Top or Bottom stick section. The insulated stick is to be clearly and indelibly marked (engraved) with an identifier as above with lettering at least 5 mm tall.

Example: ST-IS-12345T and ST-IS-12345B

3.2.5 Carry Bags

Prefix “CB” to be used.

Each carry bag for each earthing set is to be clearly and indelibly marked with an identifier as above, with letters at least 20 mm tall and at a location in the middle of the outer face of the bag where it can be readily seen.

Immediately above this label should be another label with the title “ST-OHW/RAIL CONNECTORS –”, along with the name of the depot at which they are to be stored.

Example: ST-OHW/RAIL CONNECTORS – CLYDE DEPOT

ST-CB-12345

The equipment shall be marked to identify its rated fault current/rated time classification in compliance with TfNSW standard *T HR EL 90003 ST Heavy Rail Traction System - Current Ratings of 1500 V dc Equipment* Section 8 Protective rail connection equipment.

Equipment that does not fulfil the minimum rating requirement shall not be used. Higher rated equipment should be labelled in accordance with its actual rating.

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4 Inspection and testing of portable rail connecting equipment

WARNING

All current carrying components of portable rail connecting equipment are to be destroyed immediately after it has sustained fault conditions in the field.

4.1 Care and storage

Portable rail connecting equipment shall be stored out of the weather and away from solvents and sharp objects.

4.2 Inspection before each use

Each time before use, the portable rail connecting equipment shall be inspected for any visible or obvious outward sign of damage, deterioration, or faulty connections. Tape shall not be used on terminations or connections, as it prevents checking for broken strands. Clear heat shrink over terminations is the preferred method for termination support as it allows visual inspection of the cable condition and terminations to be undertaken.

Particular attention should be given to ensure that:

- The inspection labels as shown in the samples of Appendix A are attached to both the insulated operating stick and the insulated cable, and that the portable rail connecting equipment is within the indicated due dates for both six-monthly and three-yearly inspections. If there is no inspection label attached to the portable rail connecting equipment, both six-monthly and three-yearly inspections must be carried out and labelled accordingly before being used.
- Compliance tags are current.
- The operating stick is generally in good condition and clean – check for any ingress of moisture.
- The bolted connections are tight.
- There are no visible signs of corrosion at the cable/lug interface.
- There are no broken strands or stressing of cable.
- The moving parts are in sound condition – freedom of movement, sound thread condition and ease of use.

If any defect is found with the portable rail connecting equipment inspected, the equipment shall be withdrawn from service and not used until satisfactorily repaired.

4.3 Six-Monthly inspection

Every six months and irrespective of any other inspection or test, the portable rail connecting equipment shall be inspected as follows:

- Inspections as detailed in Section 4.2
- Checking that the identification detailed in Section 3.2 is clear and legible.

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Results of the inspection shall be recorded on *SP D 79045 FM01 Portable Rail-Connecting Equipment Inspection Sheet*. An appropriate inspection label as shown in the samples of Appendix A shall then be placed on the portable rail connecting equipment, indicating the due date for the next inspection or test.

4.4 Three-Yearly inspection

Every three years and irrespective of any other inspection or test, the portable rail connecting equipment shall be inspected as detailed in Section 4.2 and either:

- All heatshrink tubing or other termination support is removed and the outer strands of the cable inspected at each termination. There shall be no broken strands and no visible corrosion or signs of overheating. After successful inspection, the termination support shall be renewed to the same specification as originally fitted.
- Re-terminated at each clamp as detailed in Appendix B. This method involves the cutting, inspection and re-termination of the cable terminations.

Results of the inspection shall be recorded on SP D 79045 FM01. An appropriate inspection label as shown in the samples of Appendix A shall be placed on the portable rail connecting equipment, indicating the due date for the next inspection or test.

5 Reference documents

EP 95 20 00 06 SI Methods of Rail Connecting 1500 Volt Overhead Wiring

SP D 79045 FM01 Portable Rail-Connecting Equipment Inspection Sheet

T HR EL 90003 ST Heavy Rail Traction System - Current Ratings of 1500 V dc Equipment

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Appendix A Sample Inspection Label

Six Month Inspection

Inspected by: _____

Next inspection due: ____/____/____

Three Year Inspection

Inspected by: _____

Next inspection due: ____/____/____

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Appendix B Earthing and Short-Circuiting Equipment – Re-termination Procedure

The procedure is as follows:

- a. Cut the cables at or beyond the end of any termination support, e.g. heatshrink tubing or stress control clamp.
- b. Inspect the cable insulation.
- c. Strip off enough cable insulation to allow careful inspection of the conductors by unwinding the individual strands.

If any of the conductor strands are broken, or the strands are significantly oxidised or the insulation is cracked or wrinkled, the cable is failed. If this damage is localised, the cable may be cut further back and the assessment repeated.

- d. If the cable is satisfactory then the cable may be re-terminated so that the new terminations are exactly the same as the originals.
- e. Report the condition of the insulation and the proportion of broken conductor strands. The cable is rejected if cracks or wrinkles are visible in the insulation or if any of the conductor strands are broken.

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