

# Safety Advice

Action required following a serious incident

## Manual handling of troughing products following ORR prohibition and improvement notices

**Issued to:** All staff and contractors engaged in the specification, planning, installation, renewal and disposal of troughing products

**Ref:** NRA 15/02

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**Location:** National

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### Overview

In May 2014, Network Rail issued [Safety Bulletin 323](#) which prohibited with immediate effect the manual lifting, carrying and team handling of C143 conventional concrete troughing.

In January 2015, Network Rail issued [Safety Bulletin NRB 15/01](#) mandating a risk assessment policy for all troughing products by using the MAC tool together with the troughing elements risk chart.

On 22 April 2015 ORR issued the following Notices:

**Prohibition Notice PN40/22042015** prohibiting "single individual employees or contractors manually lifting or carrying 10 or more units of troughing weighing 40kg or more in a 12 hours period" anywhere on Network Rail Infrastructure.

**Prohibition Notice PN70/22042015** prohibiting "two employees or contractors manually lifting or carrying 10 or more units of troughing weighing 70kg or more in a 12 hours period" anywhere on Network Rail Infrastructure.

Both of the Prohibition Notices apply immediately. **Continuing the activity would be a criminal offence.**

A further **Improvement Notice IN/25/22042015** requires Network Rail to undertake a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risk to employees, and contractors working under our control, from manually handling troughing weighing 25kg and more. That assessment will need to identify the measures necessary to control the risks identified.

This additional work is required by 25 October 2015. Further information will be communicated when the work is complete.

### Immediate action required

- Compliance with the requirements of the Prohibition Notices is required immediately.
- If you are about to manually handle concrete troughing products then you must have an approved, site-specific risk assessment. If you haven't then stop, request that a risk assessment is undertaken by a competent individual and implement any resulting actions before continuing work.
- All staff and contractors who specify, manage, plan, authorise and carry out manual handling activities relating to the delivery, installation, renewal or disposal of troughing materials must comply in full with the guidance of the HSE manual handling [MAC assessment tool](#) or a suitable equivalent.
- If your work involves any equivalent risk with other loads that you move manually, apply the same controls, derived from risk assessment.

CONCRETE TROUGH VARIANTS	DESCRIPTION	FULL WEIGHT CONCRETE (KG)	FULL WEIGHT HALF LENGTH CONCRETE (KG)	REDUCED WEIGHT CONCRETE (KG)	REDUCED WEIGHT HALF LENGTH CONCRETE (KG)	TTS GREEN TROUGH VARIANTS	FULL WEIGHT POLYMER (KG)	FULL WEIGHT HALF LENGTH POLYMER (KG)
C/1/6	Straight Trough	37	19	24	12	TS120S	6	
C/1/7	Straight Trough	49	25	32	16	TS150S	8	
C/1/38	Transition	50	25	35	18	TT150/200	1	
C/1/8	Straight Trough	71	36	46	23	TS200S	14	
C/1/9	Straight Trough	55	28	36	18	TS200S	14	
C/1/31	Trough Bend	55	28	36	18	TS430B	12	
C/1/35	Transition	58	29	38	19	TT200/250	1	
C/1/10	Straight Trough	62	31	40	20	TS250S		9
C/1/34	Trough Tee	60	30	39	20	TS250T	10	
C/1/36	Transition	65	33	44	22	TT200/250	1	
C/1/33	Transition	66	33	43	22	TT250/300	2	
C/1/29	Straight Trough	70	35	46	23	TS300S	16	
C/1/82	Trough Tee	76	38	49	25	TS430T	21	
C/1/32	Transition	77	39	53	27	TT300/150	2	
C/1/44	Transition	77	39	50	25	TT300/430	2	
C/1/61	Transition	82	41	53	27	TT430/120	3	
C/1/80	Trough Tee	83	42	54	27	TS300T	13	
C/1/62	Transition	85	43	55	28	TT430/200	3	
C/1/44	Transition	88	44	60	30	TT300/430	3	
C/1/63	Transition	88	44	57	29	TT430/250	3	
C/1/23	Trough Tee	89	45	64	32	TS200T	9	
C/1/45	Transition	94	47	60	30	TT200/430	3	
C/1/43	Straight Trough	115	58	75	38	TS430S		15
C/1/81	Trough Tee	140	70	91	46	TS430T	21	

#### HSE MAC Tool Assessment of Concrete & Polymer Trough Products

<b>GREEN</b>	The risks are low but you should further assess the manual handling activity considering the time duration, repetitiveness of task and the site environment.
<b>AMBER</b>	You should examine and assess the planned manual handling activities closely giving full consideration to alternative mechanical means.
<b>RED</b>	There is a high level of risk from manual handling of these products. A full re-evaluation of the risks is required prior to any further activity.
<b>PURPLE</b>	There is a very high level of risk and manual handling of these products is prohibited unless a detailed risk assessment demonstrates that this may be performed safely.
<b>XX</b>	<b>These items are now effectively obsolete for manual handling compliance with the Network Rail prohibition notices - see over the page.</b>