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Uncontrolled move of a Road Rail Vehicle (RRV)

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Background

Whilst undertaking overhead line maintenance activities on the tramway, a Road Rail Vehicle (RRV MECALAC 11 MEWP) traversing a road crossing on track with steel wheels lost railhead traction on a gradient and subsequently rolled backwards onto the live road crossing. The plant operator applied the brakes but was unable to prevent the vehicle from sliding backwards. Although no injuries or damage occurred, this was a high potential near miss.

Upon inspection of the RRV wheels, a significant build-up of grease was identified and early indications are that this contamination came from the embedded rail on the highway road crossing.



Image 1. Contaminated RRV wheel

Image 2. Grease removed from one wheel

Instruction

For any plant being used on TfL's infrastructure, you must:

- check the plant is approved for use, (i.e. Plant Approval List for the business area)
- check maintenance inspection records are up to date
- check all vehicle and equipment wheels before and after use to confirm they are not contaminated with any substance that could impair their braking performance

For RRVs, you must also check the rail-head and wheel condition following a change in track feature i.e. where there is an increased likelihood of grease/contamination build up.

You must report all instances of RRV wheel slippage, particularly on a gradient, via an EIRF.

For more information:	Fionn Purcell HSE Manager, London Trams
Approved by:	Jim Medway HSE Senior Manager