



# SAFETY

# Net

December 07

A Publication from the Health & Safety Committee of the  
South East Central Branch CWU

## Railtrack Work

There have been some concerns raised over the last several weeks over engineers being asked to carry out jobs on Railtrack property with out the correct qualifications. At present you still must have the PTS Certificate (Personal Track Safety) to work on Railtrack Property (platforms and trackside etc). This would involve you doing a full 2 day course outside of BT. Anyone not qualified should not undertake any tasks on Railtrack property before talking to their manager or one of the Union Representatives listed below. It would also be a good idea to speak to someone on site before attempting to carry out any work, they will have a



good understanding of what tasks you can and can't undertake. However there are certain circumstances when some work can be done at Stations, if you are in any doubt please contact your manager or one of your Union representatives listed below. The confusion around the process at present seems to be due to the fact that there is a new process proposed by the company where engineers will all be qualified to carry out certain tasks on Railtrack property. However we have been told by senior Openreach management that no-one has undertaken this CBT course yet and the process remains unchanged.

## Pole Steps



New Style of Pole Step

For those of you unaware there has been an update in the type of steps fitted to wooden poles. The new style are depicted in the photo on the left. There have been some issues surrounding the use and suitability of the steps in question. The issue is now at a national level but as a safety committee we thought we should reinforce the situation. Where there have been faulty batches the steps have been returned and destroyed. However, there are still some concerns over the quality of the steps and if you come across any of these steps please make sure you inspect the steps carefully for any defects before climbing. You need to be on the look out for any type of decay where the step is fixed to the pole. Also that there are no fractures in the galvanising causing the steps to weaken. If any steps on the pole are defective, do not climb it, and report it on an A1024 for the step(s) to be replaced. Ensure a label is affixed to the pole. The codes to use are:-

Code 327.

Defect code 502

Remedy

South East Central Health & Safety Co-ordinator; Steve Awcock 07802 231036  
Health & Safety Officer West; Nick Smith 07729 413811  
Health & Safety Officer East; George Hannah 07802 231134