



Missing Safety Clips – Temporary Works

WLD.023

Description of Event

Risk associated with safety “R” clips missing from retaining pins within trench boxes

Population at Risk

Construction and Maintenance Workers, Inspectors and Supervisors

Hazardous Activity and Residual Risk Description

- Missing/broken safety “R” clips may expose workers to temporary structures that are unstable. This has an assessed residual risk of a likely likelihood of serious harm being incurred.

Potential consequences of this event

- Unsecured trench boxes due to missing clips reduces the structure stability and exposes workers to the potential risk of structural failure.
- Failure of structure could lead to serious injury of personnel if in use at the time of failure as well as delays to projects.



Photo of missing safety clips from a retaining pin.



Photo of a retaining pin without a hole visible for the safety clip.

Safety Hub [Alert Database](#)

Filtering by text “safety clips” has 7 alerts including 1 fatality.

Potential Mitigation Measures

Design

- Designers to look to eliminate or reduce the need for deep excavation wherever possible.
- If the avoidance of deep excavation is not possible Temporary Works designers to promote the use of robust and intrinsically safe temporary support systems.
- Temp. works product designers to promote the use of built in retention systems eg, a drop pin or similar integrated solutions.



Construction

- Principal Contractor to liaise with suppliers and industry about improved components.
- Ensure temporary support systems are installed in accordance with the manufacturer’s guidelines, are checked pre-use and regularly inspected.
- Temporary works coordinator to liaise with supervision/site staff to ensure competency and that they are aware of all potential risks and safety procedures for temporary works systems.

Further Guidance and Reading

- [BS 5975:2019](#) – Code of Practice for temporary works procedures and the permissible stress design of falsework
- [Highways Safety Hub](#) – Temporary Works
- [Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 \(PUWER\)](#)
- [Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 \(LOLER\)](#)



Please send ideas for Whole Life Design safety shares to wellbeing@nationalhighways.co.uk

LEAN

Alternative Materials

Alternative Plant

Improved end user benefits

Reduced Activity Duration

Reduced Defects

Reduced Reportable Accidents