Southern Railway

Headquarters Office,
Works Branch,
Chennai – 600 003

SR-HQ0ENGG(CBEO)/22/2020 (E-51553) Date: As signed.

CAO/CN/MS & ERS, CAO/CN/RSP/MS,
Sr.DEN/Co-ordn./MAS, TPJ, MDU, SA, PGT & TVC

Sub: Reiteration of safety instructions regarding working near live OHE -reg.

Ref: CEDE/SR letter No.E.220/Policy (E-file 70014/2020) dated 07.10.2026

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A copy of the CEDE/SR letter cited under reference on the subject noted above is forwarded herewith for kind information and necessary action.

GABRIEL
Digitally signed by GABRIEL
Date: 2026.10.12 10:48:17 +05'30'

ABE/HQRS
for Chief Bridge Engineer

Encl.-As above.

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by Subramanian Thangavel
Date: 2026.11.20 17:04:24 IST
Reason: IREPS-CRIS
Location: New Delhi

भारत सरकार	भारत सरकार/Government of India रेल मंत्रालय/Ministry of Railways दक्षिण रेलवे/Southern Railway	
सं/No. E.220/Policy (E- file 70014/2020)	MISSION ZERO ACCIDENTS MISSION ZERO FAILURES	प्रधान कार्यालय/ Headquarters office, बिजली शाखा/Electrical Branch, चेन्नई-3/Chennai-600 003. दिनांक/ Date: As signed

CTE/SR, CBE/SR, CE/TMC/SR

Sub Reiteration of Safety Instructions Regarding Working Near Live OHE. –reg.

Ref: (i) PCSO letter No. Safety.389/Corres/2025 dated 04.09.2025
(ii) RB Letter No. 2009/RE/161/4 FTS-748 Dt. 26.08.2014
(iii) This office letter even No dated 11.11.2025

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In continuation of the safety instructions already issued vide Letter Reference No. 3, it is once again reiterated that **no work of any nature shall be carried out within 2 metres of live OHE unless a valid "Permit to Work" (PTW) has been obtained and all prescribed safety precautions have been complied with.**

This requirement shall be observed without exception by all Railway and contractual staff engaged in maintenance, construction, inspection, patrolling, loading and unloading, or any other activity in electrified areas.

Staff and supervisors shall ensure that no person, tool, equipment, metallic object, ladder, scaffold, vehicle-mounted platform, crane, track machine, or construction material is brought within 2 metres of live OHE without prior authorization through a valid PTW.

Any violation of this instruction shall be viewed seriously, as inadvertent proximity to live OHE can result in fatal electrical accidents even without direct contact.

All controlling supervisors are instructed to counsel their staff and contractual personnel regularly and ensure strict compliance with the above safety requirement at all work sites. Written acknowledgement of these safety instructions shall be obtained wherever applicable.

Accordingly, it is once again requested that these safety instructions be circulated widely and that all concerned staff be suitably counseled.

07/10/2026

(जितेन्द्र कुमार मंगल/ **Jitendra Kumar Mangal)**
मुख्य बिजली वितरण इंजीनियर/द.रे.
Chief Electrical Distribution Engineer/ SR

Copy to: - PCE/SR- for kind information please

दक्षिण रेलवे
Southern Railway

प्रधान कार्यालय
बिजली शाखा, चेन्नई-3
Headquarters office
Electrical Branch
Chennai-600 003
Date: 11.11.2025

सं/No. E.220/Policy (E- file 70014/2020)

PCE/SR

Sub Reiteration of Electrical Safety Practices as per IE rule and ACTM to be followed by Railway/Contractual staff of Engineering department.

Ref: (i) PCSO letter No. Safety.389/Corres/2025 dated 04.09.2025
(ii) RB Letter No. 2009/RE/161/4 FTS-748 Dt. 26.08.2014

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This is to bring to your attention about the Hazardous Nature of the Over Head Equipment (OHE). OHE consists of conductors, insulators and supporting structures. This equipment carries high voltage and can cause electrocution even without direct contact due to electrical induction. OHE is dangerous even without direct contact. Hence strict safety precautions must be followed at all times by both Railway staff and contractual personnel, not only during direct interaction with OHE but also when working in its vicinity.

1.0 As per the item No.9, 10 &11 of appendix-8, Model circulars of ACTM Volume-II, Part-II, and Indian Electricity (IE) rules any individual working or travelling at Railway premises has to ensure the following,

1.1. Maintain safe distance from live part.

1.2. Do not use long metal object Over Head Lines.

1.3. Use only insulated tools and equipment.

1.4. Unauthorized access to near HV installations & live portion is prohibited.

2.0 Whereas it has been observed that new COP structures are built near to live OHE without earthing, GI sheets are fixed without availing the power block. During launching and maintenance of Over Line Structures, metallic T&P are being used, which come into contact with live OHE. The Engineering staff unauthorisedly climbed onto track machines /coaches.

3.0 To avoid electrical accidents, it is recommended to sensitize all concerned about Electrical Safety precaution before starting of work itself. Railway / Contractual staff should discuss safety issues for five to ten minutes, every day/every time and take a safety pledge (Copy enclosed)

4.0 It is requested that the Safety Pledge be formally integrated into the routine duties of Engineering Railway & Contractual staff engaged in activities such as foot patrolling, while checking the railway assets nearby live OHE, working near the Cover Over Platform, construction of building in station area, loading of rails in BFR, renewal of track and signal joints and any other activities in electrified sections.

Safety pledges shall be recited prior to the commencement of work. Supervisors to ensure that these principles are consistently reflected in daily operations, thereby reinforcing safety as a core organizational value without endangering any life.

Encl: - As above

Copy to PCSO- For kind information

11.11.2025

विष्णु कांत/ Vishnu Kant

मुख्य बिजली वितरण इंजीनियर

Chief Electrical Distribution Engineer

Annexure to letter No. E.220/Policy (E- file 70014/2020) dated 11.11.2025

"Safety Pledge for *Engineering & Contractual Staff* while working in Electrified Sections"

I, (state your name), pledge to make safety my foremost priority while working on or near Overhead Equipment (OHE). I understand that complacency is the greatest risk and that safety requires my full attention at all times.

To fulfil this pledge:

- I affirm that no work shall be carried out within 2 meters of live OHE without a valid "Permit to Work."
- I affirm that I do not use long metal /metal reinforced object nearby Over Head Lines.
- I affirm that I will always wear helmets, safety shoes and other protective equipment correctly while working in Electrified section.
- I affirm that while foot patrolling, I shall not sit under any OHE structures / lines.
- I affirm that I never enter the Switching stations and Traction Substations without authorization.
- I affirm that I will not climb over the Track machine / Crane / ART in the Electrified section without a valid "Permit to Work."
- I affirm that I will not execute the any work on OLS, buildings in Station nearby OHE without a valid "Permit to Work."
- I affirm that I will not disturb the OHE bonds without the knowledge of the concerned TRD authority.
- I affirm that at any circumstances I will not touch any broken or snapped OHE conductors or fallen wires in the electrified section.
- I affirm that, any abnormality noticed on OHE installation / moving dimension of Rolling Stock, I will immediately inform to TPC or nearby on duty SM.

This list is not exhaustive and additional precaution must be taken as per the site conditions.

दक्षिण रेलवे/SOUTHERN RAILWAY

प्रधान कार्यालय/Headquarters Office,
संरक्षा विभाग/Safety Department,
चेन्नै/Chennai - 600 003
दिनांक/Date: 04.09.2025

सं .No.Safety.389/I/Corres/2025

Divisional Railway Manager
MAS, MDU, PGT, SA, TPJ, TVC

विषय/Sub: Precautions to be followed by Siding staff while working in Electrified Territory- reg.

संदर्भ/Ref: RB Lr.No.2009/RE/161/4 FTS-748 dt.26.08.2014

Two cases of electrocution involving contract staff have been reported over Thiruvananthapuram (TVC) Division, details of which are as follows:

1. Incident-1-FACT/CD Yard (06.08.2025):

   On 06.08.2025, a staff member from the Loco Department of FACT/CD sustained severe injuries due to electrocution. The individual had climbed onto a FACT locomotive stabled on Road No. 8 (electrified/wired) for radiator watering, without ensuring proper isolation of the Overhead Equipment (OHE). During the activity, the staff came dangerously close to the live OHE, resulting in serious electric shock injuries.

2. Incident-2–KLMR Station Construction Site (03.09.2025):

   On 03.09.2025 at approximately 11:20 hrs, a contract staff member sustained electric burn injuries while working at the construction site of the KLMR station building. The incident occurred when an iron rod being handled by the worker came into accidental contact with the live OHE, resulting in an electric shock.

Preliminary observations indicate that non-adherence to safety protocols, inadequate supervision, and lack of awareness among staff/contract workers regarding OHE risks were contributing factors in both cases.

Further, Railway Board guidelines stipulate precautions to be followed by Railway staff in 25 kV AC / 1500 V DC Electrified territory while working on top of departmental vehicles or platform shelters (vide ref.1).

In view of the recent incidents of electrocution involving contract staff over Thiruvananthapuram Division, it is advised that all Divisions may conduct focused inspections at work sites and create awareness among both Department/ Contract staff.

Encl: As above.

04.09.25

(ललित मनसुखानी/ Lalit Mansukhani)
प्र.मु.सं.अ/P.C.S.O

प्रतिलिपि /Copy to:

Secy. to GM – कृपया म.प्र. के सूचना के लिए/for kind information of **GM**, please.
PPS to AGM – कृपया अ.म.प्र के सूचना के लिए/for kind information of **AGM**, please.
PCEE, PCCM – कृपया सूचना के लिए/for kind information.
Sr.DSO /MAS, MDU, PGT, TPJ, TVC
DSO/SA
सूचना और आवश्यक कार्रवाई के लिए।
for information & necessary action.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No.2009/RE/161/4 FTS- 748 **New Delhi, dt. 26.08.2014**

General Managers
All Zonal Railways, Production Units, CORE/Allahabad

Sub:- Precautions to be followed by Railway staff in 25 kV AC, 1500 Volts DC Electrified Territory while working on top of Departmental vehicles/Top of Platform Shelter.

Certain instances of Railway staff getting electrocuted, while working on top of departmental vehicles placed under live OHE, have come to the notice of Railway Board. In this connection, the following instructions are reiterated for strict observance as well as observance of Indian Electricity (IE) rules:-

1. In electrified territory, no Railway staff should climb on the top of any railway vehicle including engineering machines, electric locomotives, tower wagons, cranes, or any other structure including Platform shelter roofs where 25 kV wire crossing the shelter on the electrified track without properly ensuring that the OHE power supply is completely switched off and the overhead equipment is earthed.

2. If in emergency climbing on the top of any vehicle becomes necessary due to any reason for regular / breakdown maintenance , prior permission of the "Divisional Control- TPC" shall be necessarily obtained. After availing the power block from "ON DUTY" Divisional Control (TPC) and after ensuring that OHE is dead and earthed, staff can be allowed to climb on top of vehicle for carrying out the required work in presence of OHE maintenance supervisor. On completion of the work on the top of the vehicle/machine placed under the OHE, the railway staff after getting down from the top of the vehicle will intimate the Division control (TPC) for cancellation of the power block. Private number will have to be exchanged both at the time of availing the block and at the time of cancelling the block.

3. Caution Board & written instructions need to be provided on all kinds of departmental vehicle/track machines / Platform shelters for the same in Hindi/English in the following format:

खतरा 25000 वोल्ट बिजली से सावधान अवेशित उपरी उपस्कर है, कृपया उपर मत जाइये।

DANGER **BE CAUTIOUS OF 25000 VOLTS** **LIVE OHE ABOVE, PLEASE DON'T CLIMB**

4. Written acknowledgement needs to be taken from all senior supervisors that they have counselled their staff on the issue. Senior supervisors in turn should maintain a register in which written acknowledgement of all staff under their control have been taken. Whenever a new staff joins, he/she needs to be counseled immediately & acknowledgement taken.

28/8/14

(Man Singh)
Additional Member (Electrical)

Copy to:

1. AM(CE), AM(ME) : Railway Board.
2. Director General/NAIR
3. Adviser (Safety), Adviser (L)/G, Adv(RE) Railway Board
4. EDRE(P), EDEEM, EDEE(Development), EDEE(RS), Railway Board.
5. Chief Electrical Engineers/All Zonal Railways, CORE/ALD & Production units.
6. Director/IRIEEN, IRISET, IRIMEE, IRICEN.
7. . CMD/IRCON, RVNL, KRCL, RITES,DFCCIL.