

HSE Bulletin 55 in 2017

Use of mobile electronic devices in train cabs

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Background

The use by drivers of personal mobile phones has been cited as a factor in several fatal railway incidents around the globe, including disasters in Spain, Germany and California claiming over a hundred lives. More recently the driver's use of a mobile phone in the cab was referred to in an investigation into a serious PTI incident on First Great Western at Hayes & Harlington. In response to this incident, The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) reminded TOCs that the use of mobile phones by drivers "**creates an unacceptable risk of distraction and is therefore dangerous**".

Instruction

Train Operators are reminded that, as per the Train Operations Competence Standards and Guidance:

Personal mobile phones (and other personal electronic devices) must be switched off at all times while driving in the cab.

Using a mobile device while in control of your train is considered a breach of the Code of Conduct Standard, and if found proven could result in disciplinary action being taken.

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