

2008-02 Tamping Machines and Sleeper Spacing

Applicability

ARTC Network Wide	✓	Western Jurisdiction		New South Wales		Victoria	
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Audience	Main Points	Amendment Record
Work Group and Team Leaders, Team Managers Project Managers	Some sections of mainline have varying sleeper spacing and skewed sleepers. It had been suggested that sites with varying spacing may need painting or monumenting.	First issue of bulletin
Maintenance Staff – Alliance and ARTC	The Executive Manager, Maintenance has obtained up to date information from Plasser advising that many of their tamper's can tamp such sleepers.	
Delivery Managers	This Bulletin is issued for information only. No specific actions are required.	

Background

Some concern has been expressed about a tamping machine's ability to cope with varying sleeper spacing, especially where some standards require closer spacing under IRJs. There is also the issue of skewed sleepers that exist in some sections of mainline track e.g. around Pimba in the East – West Division.

NSW standard TDS 11 Section 6.2 is one related standard.

Information from Plasser

Plasser have advised that their 3X tamper can be operated in single sleeper mode or triple sleeper mode.

Their 4X tamper can be operated in single sleeper mode or double sleeper mode or four sleeper mode.

In addition the **latest models** can tamp skewed sleepers or sleepers with irregular spacing in the #X or \$X operating mode.

This last statement means that if we close up spacing at GIJ's etc. the 3X and 4X latest model machines can handle these irregular spacing.

Hence there is no need to erect signs or paint sleepers etc at site where sleepers may be irregularly spaced or skewed.

Issued by

Date

John Furness, Manager Standards

16 May 2008