

Trains Health and Safety Council Safety Notice

24 October 2019

Update on Jubilee line fleet cracks

Today members of the RMT Trains Health & Safety council together with local Jubilee line reps visited Stratford Market depot to view the cracks found last week on the Jubilee line fleet and to speak to some of the engineering colleagues dealing with this issue.

We welcomed the opportunity to view the cracks first-hand and to ask questions of our engineering colleagues who were able to provide additional information.

Unfortunately, at this time the root cause for the cracks appearing has not been fully established, in turn an appropriate fix hasn't been developed. However, this issue is evolving, and new information has been made available.

Firstly, it was confirmed that trains considered Cat 2 will now be stopped rather than subject to checks every 3 days, this follows an engineering re-evaluation. As a result, 10 trains are currently stopped (8 Cat 1, 2 Cat 2).

It was also reported that there was an issue with bolts shearing under the train which may have contributed to the cracks and that cracks have been found in other areas of the train separate to the special trailer car, which was originally believed to be the only area effected.

The RMT raised a concern with the ongoing testing processes currently in place and sought reassurances that cracks found following non destructive testing would be appropriately categorised.

In response engineers stated that the results of the non-destructive testing are reviewed by the Principle Engineer and that to date no crack has been recategorised as a result of these reviews.

We appreciate the professionalism of our colleagues in engineering and the transparency displayed to date in sharing information, however we made it clear that any changes to the testing process or how testing results were applied would be a serious concern for us.

Moving forward we will continue to engage closely with LU and engineers until this issue is resolved and will seek regular meetings and updates. We have also asked that a list of the effected unit numbers is made available to Train Operators.

We also welcome that LU have commissioned a Formal Investigation, which local safety reps will sit on.

In the meantime the Jubilee line will continue to work to the current timetable with the trains they have available, with the obvious gaps.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this ongoing situation please contact your local safety rep or any of us on the Trains Health & Safety council.