



LONDON UNDERGROUND LIMITED

SAFETY BULLETIN

LUSEA Ref. No.: N/A	No.– 7 in 2012	Date of Incident: 2010 to 2013
Location: All LU sites		Date of Issue: 1 May 2013
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Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) Towers

BACKGROUND:

Correct erection and inspection saves lives

Over recent years we have been alerted to a growing number of incidents involving Glass Reinforced Plastic Towers (GRP). Minor collapses of these towers have been experienced on LU Infrastructure, but more serious incidents have occurred on Network Rail, with some culminating in severe injuries.

GRP tower collapses have been attributable to the failure of components. Such failures have been caused by:

- Incorrect assembly
- Overloading
- Failure to properly inspect the towers, including all constituent parts



ACTION: Organisations using GRP towers are reminded that they must:

- Ensure that risk assessments and associated safe systems of work for this equipment reflect the importance of correct assembly, inspection, transportation and storage as a control;
- Erect and use GRP towers in accordance with manufacturer's guidance;
- Establish risk based inspection regimes for GRP towers, **including component parts**;
- Undertake inspections in accordance with the manufacturer's guidance;
- Ensure that staff who are required to undertake inspections are competent.

Please communicate this alert to your projects, teams and suppliers as appropriate

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