

Case Record



Location Nationwide

Main Contractor GTRM

Environmental Initiatives

Environmental Protection Biodegradable oil use



GTRM hydraulic oil spillage's

Many people in the industry are probably aware of the environmental problems with on-track machines. One such problem - oil leaks - are associated with older type machines, which are more prone to bursting pipes.

To counter this problem all GTRM's Tampers and Regulators have been modified to use biodegradable oil.

Converting to biodegradable oil was an expensive move for the Company (the cost of biodegradable oil is around ten times that of mineral oil), however the expense services to reiterate GTRM's environmental commitment.

The conversion programme also involved the replacement and tagging of machine hoses; the key reason was to get to the root cause of the problem through awareness of the age of each hose. Currently, statistics have shown that environmental incidents from machines have already halved and the volume of oil spilt during each incident has significantly reduced.

Training on spill-kit use and incident handling has, whenever a spillage has occurred, also reduced its severity and impact. During the year, employees within the Company's Rail Plant division have identified that spillage kits used on machines such as the tamper were not adequate for their needs.

The issuing of bunds would work well within a depot environment, but would be ineffective when out on track. Darcy Products (who supply GTRM with the spillage kits) were asked to work with a team of on-track machine operators to develop a kit that would be more suitable for on site incidents. Several ideas were put forward, together with a suggestion submitted by one operator through GTRM's 'Use Your Initiative' scheme and trials with a much improved kit are now underway. The ideas have been patented with Darcy and this example of best practice will now be spread throughout the railway network.

Other initiatives that have been brought to the fore through the 'Use Your Initiative' scheme include cut-off valves at Rail Plant refuelling depots. Many incidents have occurred when fuelling nozzles fail to cut out when the fuelling tank is full; an initiative by one member of staff at Rugby depot involved the introduction of a cut off valve on each fuelling nozzle. The implementation of this simple, inexpensive initiative has resulted in both environmental and economic benefits.