

## Case Record

# Carillion Rail introduce the use of biodegradable greases



<b>Date</b>	November 2002
<b>Location</b>	Nationwide
<b>Main Contractor</b>	Carillion Rail
<b>Client</b>	Railtrack / Network Rail

**In a bold move Carillion Rail has decided to replace the use of traditional oils and greases used in switch lubrication with Shell Malleus, a biodegradable alternative.**

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Carillion rail replace traditional mineral based greases and oils with biodegradable lubricant, Shell Malleus

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### Benefits

- **A quick and easy process to ensure that switches are operating efficiently, saving time and delays to train services.**
- **It will improve the condition and operation of the switches.**
- **Help improve the environment by reducing the amounts of pollution entering the ground in the long term.**

It is widely acknowledged that the use of greases throughout the railway network can have serious detrimental effects on the environment. Now there is an alternative to traditional mineral-based greases and oils used - a biodegradable lubricant called Shell Malleus. Carillion Rail uses biodegradable products in all on-track machines in an effort to reduce the environmental impact when spillages and leaks occur. The Environment Agency looks more favourably at companies who use biodegradable products as alternatives to mineral based agents.

Carillion Rail decided to replace traditional oils and greases used in switch lubrication with this biodegradable alternative. Railtrack has approved the product for use throughout the rail network; Shell Malleus was tested at PWSM Bletchley, where initial reports are good. Site visits and interviews with the staff using the product have confirmed its benefits. Shell Malleus, though

acting in the same way as traditional grease, is similar to oil in consistency. This has certain advantages, namely:

**Ease of application:** it can be poured on to slide chairs from an oilcan or sprayed on, reducing the amount of pollution that is often caused by traditional grease tin and brush

**Reduction of debris** on switch slide chairs and components, ensuring greater efficiency of points and signalling equipment

**Reduction of long term pollution** on switch components, bearers and ballast, due to the degrading of excess lubricant

**Cleanliness of the process** reduces pollution of depots, vehicles and overalls, reducing cleaning and replacement costs.

It is a quick and easy process to ensure that switches are operating efficiently, saving time and delays to train services. It will improve the condition and operation of the switches but will also help improve the environment by reducing the amounts of pollution entering the ground in the long term.