

FOR RAILWAY STAFF

INTERFLON RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENT ALERT

Application of OG Grease to Switch Blade to Prevent Damage and Switch Climb

OFFICIAL
Endorsement

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Introduction

Switch blades are subject to high loads, impact, and environmental exposure. Without correct protection, damage can occur at the switch tip and along the contact surfaces, increasing the risk of operational issues, including switch climb.

Key Message

OG grease must be correctly applied to the **switch blade** in line with NR/L2/TRK/053 to protect against wear, damage, and the risk of switch climb.

Why This Matters

RIA034 highlights that correct lubrication and product selection are critical to reducing friction, wear, and improving asset performance

OG grease is a **high-load grease designed for open gear and exposed applications**, providing:

- Protection of the switch blade contact surface
- Resistance to high loads and impact
- A protective barrier against wear and corrosion

Correct application to the switch blade:

- Reduces metal-to-metal contact
- Protects the blade edge and running face
- Helps maintain correct switch operation and alignment

Risks

Failure to apply OG grease correctly may result in:

- Increased wear and damage to the switch blade
- Degradation of the blade profile
- Increased friction during operation
- **Increased risk of switch climb**
- Potential for asset failure and operational disruption

Incorrect application (or no application) can also lead to accelerated deterioration in high traffic or contaminated environments.

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Best Practice

Apply OG grease:

- Directly to the **switch blade contact area** as specified in NR/L2/TRK/053
- As a **thin, even coating** to protect without attracting excessive contamination
- Apply OG Grease from 1 meter in front of the toe of the blade, through to the head planning length.

Ensure:

- Surfaces are free from heavy contamination before application
- Grease is not over-applied
- Application is included within routine maintenance cycles

Do not:

- Substitute with incorrect lubricant types
- Apply excessive quantities that may attract debris

Operational Impact

- Reduced wear and damage to switch blades
- Lower risk of switch climb
- Improved reliability and asset life
- Safer and more consistent switch operation