

FOR RAILWAY STAFF

## INTERFLON RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENT ALERT

### Applying Reduced Quantities of Lube EP in Contaminated Environments

OFFICIAL  
Endorsement

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#### Introduction

In highly contaminated environments, such as areas with sand, dust, or airborne debris, standard lubrication practices may lead to excessive contamination build-up.

#### Key Message

In contaminated conditions, **reduce Lube EP application from 4ml to 2ml per slide chair** to improve performance and reduce contamination adhesion.

#### Why This Matters

RIA034 clearly states that in contaminated areas, a reduced quantity of lubricant should be used to minimise contamination sticking to the lubrication layer

Applying a lower quantity:

- Allows the MicPol coating to **dry faster**
- Reduces the likelihood of **contaminants embedding in the coating**
- Maintains an effective low-friction dry film

This is particularly important in environments with:

- Blown sand or dust
- Dry, arid conditions
- High levels of airborne contamination

For example, routes exiting quarries, dust can rapidly contaminate over-applied lubricant if correct dosing is not followed.

#### Risks

Failure to reduce application in contaminated environments may result in:

- Excess contamination sticking to the lubricant layer
- Increased friction and resistance
- Accelerated wear of components
- Reduced effectiveness of the lubrication system

#### Best Practice

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- Apply **2ml of Lube EP per slide chair** in contaminated environments
- Ensure even distribution across the contact surface
- Avoid over-application
- Monitor condition and adjust frequency if required

Where contamination is severe:

- Increase inspection frequency
- Maintain consistent application control

### **Operational Impact**

- Improved lubrication performance in harsh environments
- Reduced contamination build-up
- Increased asset reliability
- Lower maintenance intervention rates