

FOR RAILWAY STAFF

INTERFLON RELIABILITY IMPROVEMENT ALERT

Electrical Compatibility of MicPol Coatings

OFFICIAL
Endorsement

Author: Alan Wright
Role: Senior Technical Rail Engineer
Organisation: Interflon Rail



Introduction

There are concerns that lubrication products containing solid particles may affect electrical circuits, particularly around signalling and detection components.

Key Message

Interflon Lube EP and Lube TF **do not cause insulation issues**, despite containing MicPol particles.

Why This Matters

MicPol particles are inherently insulating in nature, which can raise concerns regarding electrical interference.

However:

- The applied coating forms an extremely thin dry film layer
- The layer thickness is insufficient to create electrical insulation issues
- The dielectric strength is very low (~160 kV/cm), meaning it does not interfere with normal railway electrical systems

As a result:

- Electrical continuity is maintained
- Detection and signalling systems are not affected

Risks

Misunderstanding the product may lead to, avoidance of lubrication near electrical components

Best Practice

- Apply Lube EP and Lube TF as per standard procedures, including near electrical components where required
- Ensure correct dosage and even application
- Follow standard maintenance practices and system-specific guidance

Do not:

- Over-apply product beyond recommended quantities

Operational Impact

- Confidence in safe use around electrical systems
- Maintains full lubrication coverage

This document is issued for reliability improvement purposes. For advice or training: ukrail@interflon.co.uk