

Safety Alert Title

Document No: IW-HSQE-SA-51

Approved By: James Cullen

Revision: 1.00

1. What Happened?

Following the recent cold spell of weather, a number of defects on aluminium guardrails were noted on IW treatment plants, which compromised the integrity of the guardrails. The initial investigation highlighted a failure in the welds and as a consequence the stanchions which met the knuckle joints and baseplates failed.



Picture 1: Weld Failures on Stanchions

2. Immediate Actions

The IW contractor who installed the walkways immediately initiated a full investigation and has provided details of all IW sites where similar guardrails were installed. The operators on the affected sites have been advised not to access these locations and have put controls in place to prevent access and also erected appropriate signage to highlight the hazard.

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The IW contractor is currently continuing with the investigation into the cause of the failures.

3. Further Actions

- Take note of any defects on to aluminium handrails and particularly the weld at the baseplate and knuckle joints
- Ensure vigilance is observed while working adjacent to guardrails
- If cracks in the welds or failures are identified, prevent access to the affected area and notify your supervisor immediately
- Where defects are noted, temporary measures should be implemented immediately (cordon off area, signage) and report the hazard to Irish Water.

4. Further Information

For further information on this safety alert please contact hsqe@water.ie

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Am I SAFE?



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5. Distribution list

Internal		
Asset Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
All IW Staff <input type="checkbox"/>		
Other Please Specify _____		

External		
Local Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DBO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resident Engineers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
All Asset Delivery Contractors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other Please Specify _____		