Sub: Slewing or alterations to track involving adjustment of contact wire.

A number of incidences have come to the notice of Railway Board wherein implantation of OHE mast was found at variance with the painted value on OHE structure, possibly due to execution of certain works in the sections. Since maintaining the correct implantation of OHE is one of the important requirements for safe train operations, following codal provisions should be strictly adhered to:

2.0 Para 283(g) & (h) of Chapter II of P.Way Maintenance Manual related to the modalities and procedures to be adopted for alteration of track involving adjustment of contact wire and alteration to track bonding. Relevant provisions of these paras are reproduced below for strict implementation and compliance:

(g) Alteration of Tracks: For Slewing or alterations to track involving adjustment of contact wire (outside the agreed maintenance limits) sufficient notice should be given to the traction staff so that they arrange to adjust the overhead equipment.

(h) Alterations to track bonding: All bonds removed by the staff of the Engineering Department shall be replaced by the staff of the Engineering Department and all such removals and replacements shall be reported to the Assistant Electrical Engineer, Traction Distribution in-charge, concerned without delay.

3.0 Similarly, provisions in para 20306 of AC Traction Manual – Vol. II Part-I incorporating the provision of General Rule (1976) 17.06 also stipulates about the procedure of alteration to alignment or level of electrified track including the provision of joint annual check of rail level and setting distance (implantation) by Electrical and Engineering Departments at supervisor level. Some of the relevant extracts of these codal provisions are reproduced below:
“Before any alteration to alignment of electrified track is commenced, due notice shall be given to those responsible for the overhead equipment so that the overhead equipment may be adjusted to conform to the new conditions. It follows, therefore, that any alterations of the alignment of the track on electrified sections shall only be made with the prior knowledge and concurrence of the Sr. DEE(TrD), so that he may arrange to correct the SEDs to the extent required. No alterations to the track affecting OHE parameters may be carried out without obtaining specific approval from Sr.DEE/TrD. Whenever any permanent changes are effected, the SEDs should be revised and a note made of the circumstances and the authority under which the revision has been made.

During yearly maintenance of OHE, rail level and setting distance should be checked and compared with the original figures. Any variations above 30 mm in setting distance and 20 mm in rail level should be advised to the PWI for correction. No change in setting distance and rail level should be allowed if such change results in infringement of moving dimensions.

It is essential to have a joint annual check of rail level and setting distance by the Chargeman/OHE and APWI."

4.0 Maintaining the correct implantation of OHE structure is an important parameter and needs to be strictly implemented at field level and also keeping a record of joint measurement of implantation of each OHE structure annually on regular basis. It is further advised that OHE parameters are painted on the OHE masts and if there is any change in these parameters due to work by Engg. Deptt., these should be brought to the notice of TRD officials as per the codal provisions.

Zonal Railways are accordingly advised to ensure strict enforcement of the above and other codal provisions for safe and smooth operation of trains. It is also advised to evolve a suitable mechanism for implementation and monitoring of these codal provisions for ensuring correctness of the desired parameters periodically at supervisor level in field. Action taken in this regard be communicated to Board.

This issue with the approval of Board (ML & ME).

(Surinder Pal)  
Exe. Dir. CE (Plg.)  
Railway Board

(S. K. Saxena)  
Exe.Dir.Elect.Energy (Mgt.)  
Railway Board

Copy to: PCEs and CEEs All Indian Railways for necessary action.