

SVENSK STANDARD

SS-EN 17397-1:2020

**Järnvägar – Infrastruktur – Rälfel –
Del 1: Hantering av rälfel**

**Railway applications – Rail defects –
Part 1: Rail defect management**



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EUROPEAN STANDARD

EN 17397-1

NORME EUROPÉENNE

EUROPÄISCHE NORM

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English Version

Railway applications - Rail defects - Part 1: Rail defect management

Applications ferroviaires - Défauts de rails - Partie 1 :
Gestion des défauts de rails

Bahnanwendungen - Schienenfehler - Teil 1:
Handhabung von Schienenfehlern

This European Standard was approved by CEN on 28 September 2020.

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European foreword

This document (EN 17397-1:2020) has been prepared by Technical Committee CEN/TC 256 “Railway applications”, the secretariat of which is held by DIN.

This European Standard shall be given the status of a national standard, either by publication of an identical text or by endorsement, at the latest by May 2021, and conflicting national standards shall be withdrawn at the latest by May 2021.

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1 Scope

This document specifies the defect management system the infrastructure manager uses to control the risk of severe accidents due to degradation of internal or surface defects on rails complying with EN 13674-1, EN 13674-2, EN 13674-4 and EN 15689:2009 (excluding grooved rails EN 14811 — which need alternative systems).

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

EN 16729-3:2018, *Railway applications - Infrastructure - Non-destructive testing on rails in track - Part 3: Requirements for identifying internal and surface rail defects*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>
- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>

3.1

plain rail

zone comprising all parts of the rail located away from the rail ends and the welding zones

3.2

rail end

part of the rail located within the length of the fishplates

3.3

welding zone

weld material itself plus 20 mm from each end of the weld collar (for aluminothermic welding and electric arc welding) or upset (flash-butt welding)

Note 1 to entry: Any defect occurring in this zone is classified as a welding defect.

3.4

defective rail

rail which, for reasons of integrity or profile (including wear), requires management (examples in Annex A)

3.5

damaged rail

rail which is neither cracked nor broken, but which has other defects

3.6

cracked area

part of the rail with a localized material discontinuity

**3.7
broken rail**

rail which has separated into two or more pieces (see Figure 1 and Figure 2) or any rail from which a piece of metal becomes detached from the rail head, with a gap of more than 50 mm in length and more than 10 mm in depth resulting in a running band less than 30 mm in width (see Figure 3)

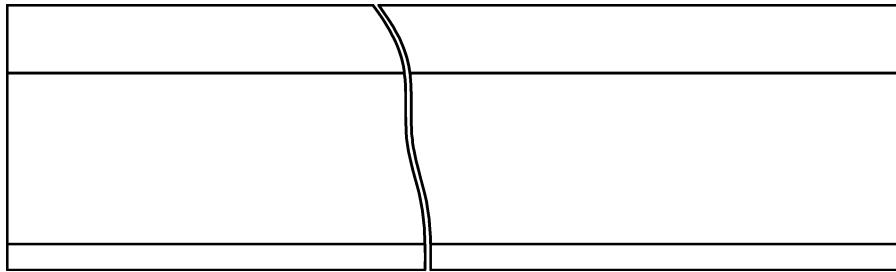
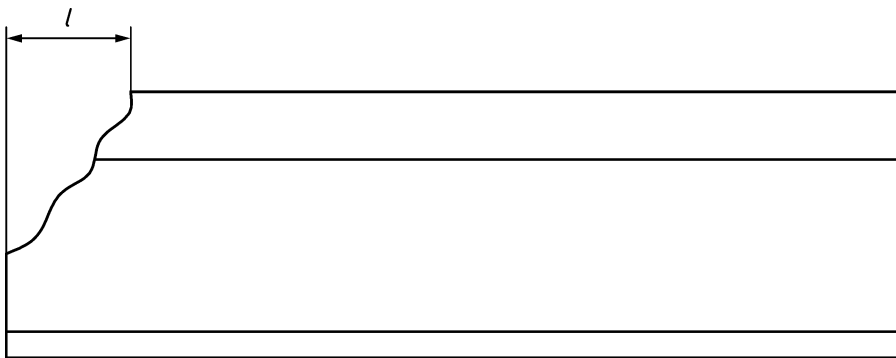


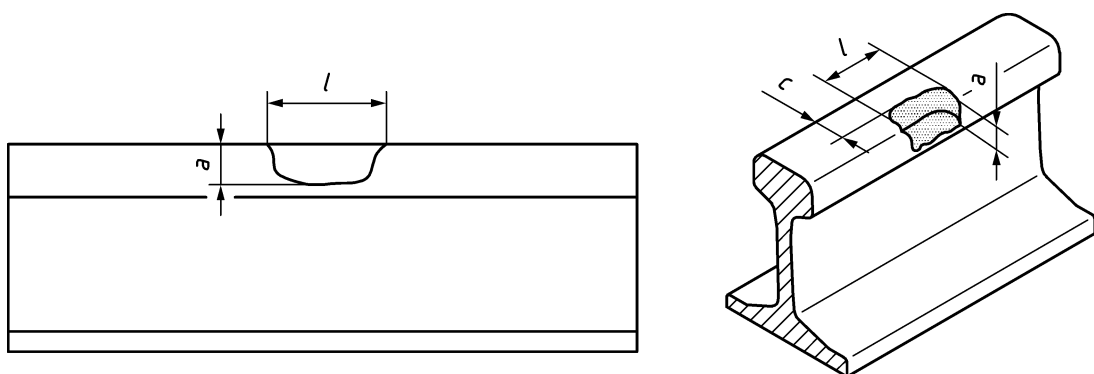
Figure 1 — Example of a broken rail separated in two pieces



Key

l horizontal length

Figure 2 — Example of a broken rail with a gap at the rail end



Key

- a* vertical depth
- l* horizontal length
- c* non-cracked area

Figure 3 — Example of a broken rail with a gap

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3.8

rail surface defect

defect which initiates on any of the surfaces of the rail

3.9

rail head surface defect

defect which initiates on or within 5 mm from the running surface of the rail

3.10

rail internal defect

defect which initiates from within the rail section but may grow to become visible on the rail surface

3.11

NDT Method

discipline applying a physical principle in non-destructive testing

[SOURCE: EN 13938-5:2004, definition 3.2]

EXAMPLE: Ultrasonic testing.

3.12

wheel/rail interaction

effect of rolling and sliding contact and direct forces from the vehicle wheels which can cause damage to the rail

3.13

environmental degradation

damage to the rail caused by external environmental factors

3.14

geometrical planes of the rail

see EN 16729-3:2018, 3.10, Figure 4

3.15

infrastructure manager [IM]

body or organisation responsible in particular for establishing and maintaining railway infrastructure, as well as for operating the control and safety systems

3.16

track maintenance engineer [TME]

engineer with "safety of line" responsibility for a defined track area

4 Abbreviations

For the purposes of this document, the following abbreviations apply.

Abbreviation	Definition
RDM	rail defect management
S&C	switches and crossings
TME	track maintenance engineer
IM	infrastructure manager
NDT	non-destructive testing
CWR	continuously welded rail
RAMS	reliability, availability, maintainability, safety
LCC	life cycle costs

5 Defect management system

5.1 General

An infrastructure manager shall put a framework in place to monitor the condition of its assets. If the infrastructure becomes deteriorated, it needs to be renewed or repaired. This can be for economic reasons or, typically at a later state in the development and propagation of the defect, due to safety reasons.

5.2 Defect types

There are a wide variety of rail defects that lead to damaged or defective rail. These defects can be grouped and categorized by a system.

The classification of the defect types along with the internationally widely used numbering scheme can be found in the Annex A of this document.

5.3 NDT inspection of rails

The IM shall implement a testing framework (appropriate NDT methods and inspection frequencies) to inspect rail to detect the defects considered relevant by the IM. The testing frequency should be designed to mitigate the risk that a detectable defect propagates to a critical size leading to failure.

The standard EN 16729-3:2018 describes how several of the most relevant defects can be detected using various methods of NDT.