Overhead Distribution

Insulators for Railways





The most comprehensive range of Polymeric Insulators for Britain's National Rail Network

A reliable Rail network requires reliable insulators at its heart and although many new designs have been added to our ever expanding range over the years, the formulation of our EPDM has never changed and our reliable service history continues to be one of our greatest assets.

Moulded onto high strength GRP rods, our range of insulators utilise W T Henley's unique EPDM cladding. This highly successful material has been well proven right around the World from desert conditions of Africa to the iced expanses of Canada and has also been used by many Electricity utilities for 40 years.

Innovative self cleaning design Some of the harshest environments we have encountered are those on the Ayrshire coast in Scotland. At this particular location, the 25kV electrified railway catenary network, runs parallel with the coast for some 20 miles. As a result the system is continually subjected to an aggresive sea-salt environment. At its worst the sea waves crash over the catenary itself. To help overcome such problems under these conditions when using traditional ceramic insulator technology, washing, replacement and/or an increased number of units are required. In using WT Henley's Polymeric technology, the open profile design and self cleaning nature of our insulators, ensures greatly improved system reliability.

Our Insulator designs are deliberately 'low profile,' a feature that is important when ensuring railway signals are kept free from obstruction. Additionally the vandal resistant design and light-weight, self cleaning properties of these products provide further obvious benefits for initial construction and maintenance, as well as reducing line closures caused by deliberate acts of damage or vandalism.

Our range of products

Autotransformer feeder Insulators

Autotransformers provide an increase in Rail traction power and in so doing, a higher throughput of trains can be run over a given distance. W T Henley has designed a range of AT Feeder Insulators for Network Rail.



Return Conductor Support Clamp Insulators

Return conductors help to reduce noise levels in communication cables and ensure voltages remain at safe levels, W T Henley has a range of Return conductor support clamp insulators for Network Rail



Mark 1 Portal Insulators

Designed to directly replace ceramic portal insulators above and below the gantry, these insulators can take some of the highest loads of any insulators in railway service. They can also be used for independent registration where higher mechanical loads are being specified e.g. in tunnel applications where large support tubes require small deflection characteristics. Malleable iron end fittings (or aluminium by request) are fully compatible with existing imperial flanges. High tensile bolts with all-metal locking nuts and washers are supplied as applicable.







Ayrshire coast - Scotland

Mark 3 Insulators (including 3A, 3B and 3C equipment)

Designed to directly replace ceramic insulators. W T Henley has a range of insulators for tension or cantilever applications ensuring full compliance to the latest Network Rail mechanical load specifications (safety factor of 4).

These insulators are designed to have less than 15mm deflection at maximum working load of 941Nm.





Insulators for Light Railway Systems

Overhead Distribution



Light rail systems are an ever popular means of transporting large numbers of hetelpleupertram around busy towns and cities. Those involved in the design and building of such projects are becoming increasingly aware of the visual impact on the landscape caused by catenary wires and associated equipment.

W T Henley work with designers to contribute to the aesthetic appeal of the system by incorporating the insulation into the structure, whether this be a registration or cantilever arm.

W T Henley can supply 750 volt, 1500 volt or 3kV DC systems with integral insulation. With DC systems the leakage current is more onerous on the insulation dielectrics and this problem has been addressed with our design.

Moulded onto high strength GRP rods, our insulators utilise our unique EPDM dielectric cladding. With the arcing and sparking from pantographs, the self extinguishing properties of our EPDM make this the ideal material.

Our light rail insulators can be supplied with or without sheds.

Projects that have used our insulators include:

MTR Hong Kong
Istanbul LRT phase 11 Turkey
Sheffield Supertram UK
Dublin Light Rail Ireland
Greater Manchester Metrolink UK

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