

IMPROVED SITE-MADE GLUED INSULATED JOINTS

Previous work by BR Research demonstrated that by using insulating liners impregnated with a heat-curing epoxy adhesive, it is practicable to produce glued insulated joints in track which will develop their full strength in about 30 mins after assembly. No problems were reported in a trial involving two joints, but the method used in their installation was relatively crude, and it was considered that it would benefit from further refinement.

The report describes the work carried out by BR Research to optimise the installation procedure. It also contains the results of laboratory tests on assembled joints, and the experience gained during a larger scale train involving a total of five joints.

Conclusions include that the productivity is likely to be not less than two joints per eight-hour shift for a team of four persons. It is also recommended that a joint made under site conditions should be subject to the new Type Approval test for insulated joints.