

## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE TRAPPING OF LEAVES BY DIFFERENT MULTIPLE UNITS

Tests were carried out to investigate how differences in rolling stock affected the rate of deposition of leaves on the railhead. To ensure control over the results, tests were carried out prior to the autumn season using pieces of paper to represent leaves, and further tests were then done with fallen leaves to compare with the paper tests. The tests were prompted by the increased problems experienced in low adhesion conditions by the new type of electrical multiple units such as Class 508.

It is concluded that:

- Under the same conditions 508s trap more than twice as many leaves on the rail as older Class 405s.
- The passage of an eight-car 508 at 50mile/h causes as many as 60% of the leaves present between the rails to be deposited on the rails.
- Use of paper is a viable test procedure for comparative tests.
- Train speed and length both influence the number of leaves rolled onto the rails, but the number rolled on increases more slowly than the increase in train speed or length.