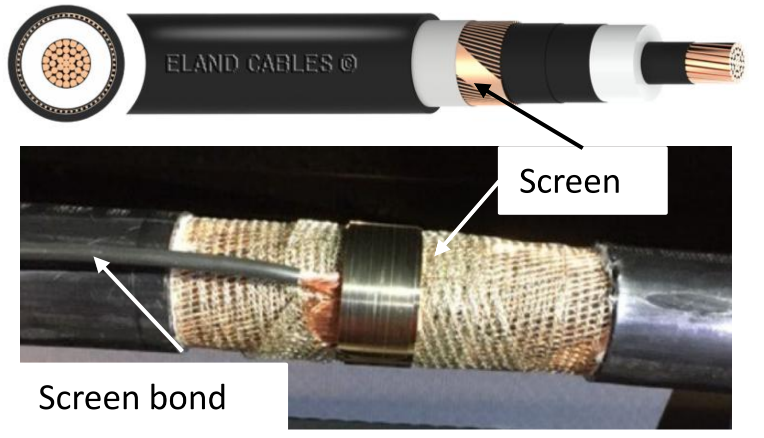
COLAS RAIL

SAFETY Bulletin



ATF Screen Bond when stripped

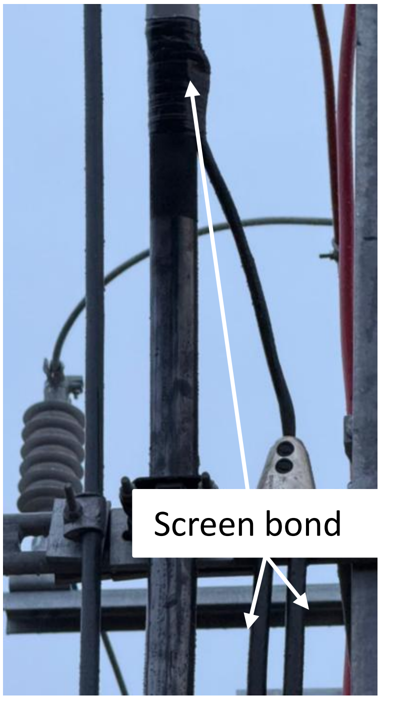
ATF Screening Bond Electrical Risk

Reference: W&W E&P Safety Alert 'Shield-Break Bonding Connections' 19/02/2026

- A Railway Track worker received an electrical shock whilst reconnecting a designated black bond from a spider plate to traction return rail.
- The black bonding cable was connecting the High Voltage ATF cable screen bond to the spider plate and then to the track – a standard connection in an ATF area.
- Network Rail investigation is on-going.
- Until this investigation is complete, all Bonding disconnections and reconnections in the location of HV Traction cables are to be **approved by E&P Maintenance Engineer (ME)**
- **OLE CRE** to approve bonding disconnection and reconnection plan and ensure required isolations are planned prior to seeking approval from E&P ME

HV screen bonds are black but still carry electrical risk:

- While bonded the ATF screen cable connection is known to carry over 50V
- If unbonded this can rise to unsafe values ***even if trains are not running***



High level example of a screen bond

Spider Plate Examples

Supervisors / Managers:
OLE CRE to approve all OLE black and red bond disconnections

Workers:
Only OLEC competent staff disconnect or reconnect OLE bonds

Free to be Safe