

Network Safeworking Rules and Procedures

Blocking Facilities

Rule Number: 6003



Brookfield
Rail

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Document Control Identification

Document title	Number	Version	Date
6003 – Blocking Facilities		1.0	31 March 2016

Document History

Publication version	Effective date	Page(s) affected	Reasons for and extent of change(s)
6003 – Blocking Facilities	4 May 2016		

Authorisation



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31 March 2016



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Glossary for this Rule

<i>Blocking Facility</i>	A facility used by a Network Controller to prevent either the unintended issue of an Occupancy Authority, or the operation of points or signalling equipment.
<i>Clear</i>	A proceed indication displayed by a signal. In reference to a track circuit, block, section or signal route, the absence of rail traffic. In reference to track workers being clear of track.
<i>Competent Worker</i>	A worker certified as competent to carry out a relevant task.
<i>Issue</i>	To provide or send copies of authorities, warnings, notices and Network publications to affected Competent Workers by voice, hand delivery or electronic means.
<i>Network Control Diagram</i>	A diagram used by Network Controllers showing operational information for a Rail Traffic control area to create a permanent record, also known as a Network Control graph.
<i>Network Controller</i>	A Competent Worker who authorises and issues Occupancy Authorities, and works points, signals and other signalling equipment to manage routes for safe and efficient transit of rail traffic in the Network.
<i>Occupancy Authority</i>	A formal authority that allows occupancy of a portion of line by rail traffic or for work on track.
<i>Permanent Record</i>	A record made in writing or in an electronic system, and kept for reference and audit.
<i>Points</i>	A track component consisting of paired pieces of tapered rail (blades) that can be moved and set to allow tracks to diverge or converge.
<i>Route</i>	The rail traffic path from one limit of authority to the next in the direction of travel.
<i>Section</i>	The line between the departure end station limit of one location and the arrival end station limit of another location. A section consists of one or more blocks.
<i>Signalling Equipment</i>	Signalling equipment and telecommunications equipment used as part of the safeworking and operating systems of the Network.
<i>Track</i>	The combination of rails, rail connectors, sleepers, ballast, points and crossings.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Rule is to detail the protocols for using *Blocking Facilities*. These devices are used to prevent the unintended *Issue of Occupancy Authorities* or the operations of *Signalling* or *Point Equipment*.

2. General



WARNING: Unless assured by the *Network Controller*, *Competent Workers* must not assume that:

- **signals have been set at STOP;**
- ***Points* have been correctly set; or**
- ***Blocking Facilities* have been applied.**

Unless otherwise permitted in the Rules:

- equipment with *Blocking Facilities* applied must not be operated; and
- *Network Controllers* must not Issue Occupancy Authorities for Sections that are shown as blocked out of use on Network Control Diagrams.

3. Management of Blocking Facilities

Before applying *Blocking Facilities* to signals, *Points* or *Sections of Track*, *Network Controllers* must make sure that any affected *Points* are set in the correct position.

3.1 Temporary Removal

Blocking Facilities may be temporarily removed from controls, with the approval of the person who requested the application of the blocking, in order to:

- set a different *Route* using the same controls;
- after safe arrangements have been made, *Clear* a signal to permit a movement over the blocked *Route*; or
- maintain and test the *Signalling Equipment*.

Network Controllers must restore *Blocking Facilities* to controls as soon as the activity that required their temporary removal has been completed, and confirm that the *Blocking Facilities* have been re-applied with the person who requested the blocking.

3.2 Permanent Removal

Blocking Facilities must be removed from controls when the conditions that required their application no longer exist and with the approval of the person who requested the blocking.

4. Keeping Records

Network Controllers and the person requesting the blocking must make a *Permanent Record* of the application and removal of *Blocking Facilities*.

5. References

Nil

6. Effective Date

4 May 2016