

Network Safeworking Rules and Procedures

Blocking Facilities

Rule Number: 6003

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Document History

Version	Effective Date	Pages updated	Reasons for change
2.01	21 11 2022	5	Glossary term

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this rule is to detail the protocols for using *Blocking Facilities*. These facilities 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 Secure Blocking Codes

A *Secure Blocking Code* is a code supplied by the *Competent Worker* to the *Network Control* system electronically or to the *Network Controller* manually if not equipped.

A manually supplied *Secure Blocking Code* must not be recorded by the *Network Controller* anywhere except in the *Network Control* system.



NOTE: *Blocking Facilities* applied to the *Network Control* system by the *Network Controller* as required by the rules for a person that is not a *Competent Worker* will not require a *Secure Blocking Code*.

3.2 Temporary Removal

Blocking Facilities may be temporarily removed from the *Network Control* System, 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 the *Network Control* System 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*.

3.3 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*.

3.4 Secure Blocking Code override

Where a *Secure Blocking* code cannot be removed due to a failure of the *Competent Workers* device, or the manually supplied *Secure Blocking* code being incorrect, the *Network Controller* must confirm with the *Competent Worker* that the:

- *Blocking Facilities* identification is correct; and
- worksite is safe and *Fit for Purpose*;

The *Network Controller* will then contact the Approved Operations *Delegate* who will:

- confirm the *Blocking Facilities* can be safely removed ; then
- follow the procedure to override the *Blocking* code and remove the *Blocking Facilities*.

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

21 November 2022