

Protecting rail traffic

Purpose

To prescribe the rules for protecting rail traffic in the Country Regional Network (CRN).

Rail traffic protection

Protection is required if:

- rail traffic is disabled, or
- rail traffic obstructs, or might obstruct, adjacent tracks, or
- the track is obstructed.

If rail traffic needing assistance is in a location that prevents the Rail Traffic Crew from placing Railway Track Signal protection, the Network Control Officer must give assisting rail traffic a Condition Affecting the Network (CAN) warning.

Delayed rail traffic

In addition to the above, in track-circuited territory, outside the area bounded by Waterfall, Macarthur, Emu Plains and Cowan, or Fassifern, Maitland and Newcastle, where following movements are allowed into the same section, the Rail Traffic Crew must protect delayed rail traffic against following movements if the rail traffic has been, or will be, stationary for more than 10 minutes, unless:

- the Rail Traffic Crew is assured by the Network Control Officer that following rail traffic has been stopped, or prevented from entering the same block, or
- the Rail Traffic Crew of the immediately following rail traffic has given an assurance that their rail traffic is stopped at a signal at STOP behind the delayed rail traffic.

If necessary, the Rail Traffic Crew or must act in accordance with:

- Rule CNTR 416 Disabled rail traffic
- Rule CNTR 426 Overdue rail traffic.

Obstruction of lines

If an obstruction is reported, the Network Control Officer responsible for the affected portions of track must act in accordance with Rule CNGE 206 Reporting and responding to a Condition Affecting the Network (CAN), and:

- instruct Rail Traffic Crew in or approaching the affected block to stop rail traffic immediately, and
- prevent entry of further rail traffic into affected, or potentially affected, portions of track, and
- make sure that blocking facilities are applied.

Protecting rail traffic

Adjacent track

The Rail Traffic Crew of stopped rail traffic must immediately protect against approaching rail traffic if:

- their rail traffic is, or might be, foul of adjacent tracks, and
- the Rail Traffic Crew is not assured that other rail traffic has been stopped or prevented from entering the obstructed block.



WARNING

Until Rail Traffic Crew have confirmed that their rail traffic is not foul of adjacent tracks, they must protect adjacent tracks.

On bidirectional double lines, protection must be applied to affected adjacent tracks in both directions.

The Rail Traffic Crew must apply protection to multiple affected adjacent tracks with the priority they consider necessary.

The Rail Traffic Crew may detach a motive power unit or locomotive from the rail traffic for use during placement of protection.

The Rail Traffic Crew must secure the remaining portion of the rail traffic before detaching the motive power unit or locomotive.

The motive power unit or locomotive used for placement of protection may be returned to the remaining portion of the rail traffic without further authorisation.

JHR Network Procedures

CNPR 709 Using Railway Track Signals

CNPR 712 Protecting work from rail traffic on adjacent lines

CNPR 720 Protecting rail traffic

Effective date

October 2019