

Ensuring accuracy of Work on Track Authority Limits when using ETW applications

Purpose

Following a recent incident in which a Work on Track Authority was left unprotected by Network Control System Blocking Facilities, this Safety Alert is issued to advise Protection Officers of the requirement to ensure the limits of a Work on Track Authority, received via an ETW application, are exactly what has been requested, before accepting and commencing work.

Action required

A worksite within the Danger Zone must have a Protection Officer while work is being performed. A Protection Officer is responsible for managing the rail safety component of worksite protection. A Protection Officer's primary duty and responsibility is to keep the worksite and workers safe.

To ensure the safety of all workers, when Protection Officers are using the ETW applications (ETW and ETW-V) for work on track authorities, Protection Officers must ensure that the limits of a requested authority are received from the Network Control Officer exactly as requested.

Any deviation from the requested limits, even if the differing limits allow work to continue, may result in the Network Control Officer having incorrectly applied blocking facilities to protect the worksite.

Examples

- A Protection Officer requests a Track Occupancy Authority between Orange Signal OE3 and Orange Signal OE26 for points maintenance. The limits received on the ETW application are from Orange OE1 signal to Orange OE26 signal.

STOP – The Protection Officer must advise the Network Control Officer of the discrepancy between the requested limits and the received limits and **not** accept the authority.

- Protection Officer requests a Route Control Blocking between Manildra Down Yard Limit and Manildra Up Yard Limit. The limits received on the ETW application are from Molong Down Yard Limit and Manildra Up Yard limit.

STOP – The Protection Officer must advise the Network Control Officer of the discrepancy between the requested limits and the received limits and **not** accept the authority.

Support

If Protection Officers are unsure on the practical application of Safeworking on the Country Regional Network, support is provided through the Safeworking Business Partners, Peter Griik contactable on 0427 682 999 or Gary Ferry on 0418 975 186.

Mayfield, 2 November 2020

Senior Management Team
JHR CRN