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1. **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this rule is to detail the protocols for using *Alternative Proceed Authorities* (APA) in the Public Transport Authority (PTA) Network. These are *Issued* to authorise Rail Traffic movements to pass a Departure Signal at Stop.

2. **GENERAL**

A written APA will be *Issued* to authorise Rail Traffic movements to pass a Departure Signal at Stop in single line Automatic Signalling Sections.

During APA working, safe separation between Rail Traffic movements must be maintained.

Unless entry is *Authorised*, Rail Traffic must be *Restrained* from entering the limits of APA working.

An APA must specify:

- the *Limit of Authority* for the movements it *Authorises*;
- the line to be used; and
- where necessary, specify any *Speed Restrictions* that must be applied.

3. **ASSURANCES**

The *Train Controller* must make sure or be assured that:

- conflicting *Occupancy* or *Routes* are not *Authorised*;
- the *Track* within the limits of the APA will be occupied only by *Authorised Rail Traffic*;
- *Effective Communication* is established between:
  - *Rail Traffic Crew*; and
  - affected *Competent Workers*;
- previously *Issued Proceed Authorities* have been *Cancelled* or *Fulfilled*;
- current *Work on Track Authorities* in affected *Sections* are *Fulfilled*, or *Worksites* are protected against movements under the APA;
- other *Competent Workers* known to be affected have been told about the planned movements under the APA;
- the *Route* to be taken by *Rail Traffic* is:
  - set and *Secured*; or
  - will be set and *Secured* by a *Competent Worker*; and
- *Protecting Signals* are at Stop with *Blocking Facilities* applied in accordance with *Rule 6003 Blocking Facilities*. 
Where Blocking Facilities cannot be applied, Rail Traffic must be Restrained in writing on a Restraint Authority.

### 3.1. ACTIVE CONTROL LEVEL CROSSINGS

Where possible the Train Controller must make sure or be assured that Active Control Level Crossings are:

- operating correctly;
- if not operating correctly, attended by Competent Workers; or
- closed to road and pedestrian traffic.

Where unable to obtain or apply these assurances, the Train Controller must advise Rail Traffic Crew to treat Active Control Level Crossings as faulty and act in accordance with Rule 2015 Active Control Level Crossing Management.

### 4. ISSUING AN ALTERNATIVE PROCEED AUTHORITY

The Train Controller Authorises Travel by compiling and issuing an Alternative Proceed Authority Form.

The Train Controller must arrange for an APA to be Issued to the Rail Traffic Crew carrying out the Authorised movements.

If available, Signals within the limits of the APA must be cleared.

Rail Traffic Crew may only pass Signals at Stop:

- if Authorised on the Alternative Proceed Authority Form and with confirmation from Train Control to Proceed; and
- in accordance with Rule 6013 Passing Fixed Signals at Stop.

Rail Traffic Crew must be advised on the Alternative Proceed Authority Form of:

- what is known about the condition of Active Control Level Crossings;
- any Speed Restrictions; and
- any Speed Restrictions that may be applied by the Maintenance Representative because of the fault.

### 5. RESTRAINT OF RAIL TRAFFIC

Rail Traffic must be Restrained from entering a Block in which APA is in effect.

The Restraint Authority must direct Rail Traffic not to depart the Location irrespective of any available Proceed Authority.
6. REPORTING

The Train Controller must tell Rail Traffic Crew or other Competent Workers of the Locations at which they are to report entry, progress and exit.

7. AUTHORIZING A FOLLOWING RAIL TRAFFIC MOVEMENT

When unoccupied Blocks behind Rail Traffic travelling on an APA are to be released for following Rail Traffic movements, the Train Controller must tell the Rail Traffic Crew to report when the Rail Traffic has passed Complete beyond nominated Absolute Signals.

When told by the Rail Traffic Crew that the Rail Traffic has passed Complete beyond nominated Absolute Signals, the Train Controller may issue an APA for a following Rail Traffic movement.

8. CANCELLING AN ALTERNATIVE PROCEED AUTHORITY

An APA may be Cancelled only if the Train Controller is assured that the Authorised movement has not started or has not been completed.

The Train Controller must tell affected Competent Workers that the APA has been Cancelled.

9. FULFILLING AN ALTERNATIVE PROCEED AUTHORITY

An APA must be Fulfilled only when the Rail Traffic Crew or Competent Worker assures the Train Controller that the Authorised movements have been completed and the Block is Clear.

The Train Controller must tell affected Competent Workers that the APA has been Fulfilled.
10. RETURNING TO NORMAL WORKING

Before normal working is resumed the Train Controller must ensure that:
- any Authority Issued to enter the affected Block is Cancelled or Fulfilled;
- the affected Block is Clear of any Rail Traffic;
- any Active Control Level Crossings in the Section are restored to normal operation;
- Blocking Facilities are removed;
- if required, Points that had been Secured are restored for normal operation; and
- instructions still in effect for the Restraint of Rail Traffic are Cancelled.

11. KEEPING RECORDS

Train Controllers must keep a Permanent Record of:
- the issue of an APA; and
- details of affected Competent Workers told about the Authorised movements.

Rail Traffic Crew and other Competent Workers must keep a Permanent Record of the issue of an APA.

12. REFERENCE

Rule 2015 Active Control Level Crossing Management
Rule 6003 Blocking Facilities
Rule 6013 Passing Fixed Signals at Stop

13. EFFECTIVE DATE

1 November 2018