PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
SAFEWORKING RULES AND PROCEDURES

6003
BLOCKING FACILITIES
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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this rule is to detail the protocols for using *Blocking Facilities* in the Public Transport Authority (PTA) *Network*. These devices are used to prevent the unintended *Issue* of *Occupancy Authorities* or the operation of *Signals* or *Point* equipment.

2. GENERAL

**WARNING**

Unless assured by the *Train 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 PTA Safeworking Rules and Procedures:

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

3. MANAGEMENT OF BLOCKING FACILITIES

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

3.1. TEMPORARY REMOVAL

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

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

*Train Controllers* must restore *Blocking Facilities* as soon as the activity that required their temporary removal has been completed, and confirm that the *Blocking* has been reapplied with the *Competent Worker* 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 *Competent Worker* who requested the *Blocking*.

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4. **KEEPING RECORDS**

*Train Controllers* and the *Competent Worker* requesting the *Blocking* must make a *Permanent Record* of the application and removal of *Blocking Facilities*.

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5. **REFERENCE**

Nil

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6. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

1 November 2015