

PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY
SAFEWORKING RULES AND PROCEDURES

4001
PROTECTING
RAIL TRAFFIC

CONTENTS

1.	Purpose	3
2.	General.....	3
3.	Rail Traffic Protection	3
	3.1. Disabled Rail Traffic	4
	3.2. Adjacent Lines.....	4
	3.2.1. Track Circuit Shorting Clips.....	5
4.	Restrain Authority	6
5.	Reference	6
6.	Effective Date	6

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this rule is to outline provisions for *Protection* for *Rail Traffic* that has failed or become an obstruction in the Public Transport Authority (PTA) *Network*.

2. GENERAL

If an obstruction is reported, the *Train Controller* responsible for the affected *Section* of line must act in accordance with **Rule 2009 Reporting and Responding to a Condition Affecting the Network (CAN)**, and:

- instruct *Rail Traffic Crew* in or approaching the affected *Block* to stop their *Rail Traffic* immediately; and
 - apply *Blocking Facilities* in accordance with **Rule 6003 Blocking Facilities** to prevent entry of further *Rail Traffic* into an affected or potentially affected *Section* of *Track*.
-

3. RAIL TRAFFIC PROTECTION



WARNING

An unexpected loss of brake pipe pressure may indicate that *Rail Traffic* has derailed or has derailed and fouled *Adjacent* lines.

Where *Adjacent* lines are or might be *Obstructed*, those lines must be *Protected* first.

Rail Traffic requires *Protection* where:

- the *Rail Traffic Crew* needs assistance;
- the *Rail Traffic* has *Obstructed*, or might *Obstruct*, *Adjacent* lines; or
- the line is *Obstructed*.

The *Train Controller* may advise the *Rail Traffic Crew* of *Disabled Rail Traffic* that *Protection* is not required provided:

- communications with the first approaching *Rail Traffic* has been established; and
- that *Rail Traffic Crew* is advised of the circumstances.

The *Train Controller* must make a *Permanent Record* of that advice.

3.1. DISABLED RAIL TRAFFIC

The *Rail Traffic Crew* of *Disabled Rail Traffic* must:

- ensure their own safety;
- tell the *Train Controller*:
 - there is a failure;
 - the *Location* of the *Disabled Rail Traffic*; and
 - the nature of the failure, when this has been determined.

The *Train Controller* must, where necessary:

- issue a *Restraint Authority* to the *Rail Traffic Crew* of:
 - the *Disabled Rail Traffic*;
 - approaching *Rail Traffic*; and
 - apply *Blocking Facilities*.

3.2. ADJACENT LINES



WARNING

Where the *Rail Traffic Crew* are unable to confirm that the *Adjacent* line is not obstructed, they must assume that it is obstructed and protect that line first.

If the *Rail Traffic Crew* suspect their *Rail Traffic* has fouled an *Adjacent* line they must immediately tell the *Train Controller*.

Where the *Rail Traffic Crew* are not assured by the *Train Controller* that other *Rail Traffic* has been stopped or prevented from entering the affected *Block* they must:

- immediately and repeatedly transmit an *Emergency* broadcast; and
- use *Rail Traffic* lights to warn any approaching *Rail Traffic* by flashing the *Headlights*.

On *Bidirectional* lines where there are *Adjacent* lines, *Protection* must be applied to affected lines in both directions.

The *Rail Traffic Crew* must apply *Protection* to affected *Adjacent* lines with the priority they consider necessary.

3.2.1. Track Circuit Shorting Clips



WARNING

Track Circuit Shorting Clips cannot be used unless it is determined that it is safe to do so.

The *Rail Traffic Crew* must determine that if there are any fallen *Overhead Line Equipment (OLE)* and they are not close to or in contact with the *Rail Traffic* or rails.

In *Track Circuited Territory* the *Rail Traffic Crew* must:

- prior to getting out of the *Rail Traffic*, determine that there are no fallen *Overhead Line Equipment (OLE)* close to or in contact with the *Rail Traffic* or rails;
- once it has been determined that it is safe to do so, fasten a *Track Circuit Shorting Clip* to the rails of the *Adjacent* obstructed lines; and
- if possible, confirm that *Affected Signals* show Stop.

Where the *Track Circuit Shorting Clip* cannot be used because of the proximity of fallen *OLE* and the *Rail Traffic Crew* cannot establish communications with *Train Control*, the *Rail Traffic Crew* must continue to:

- transmit an *Emergency* broadcast; and
- use *Rail Traffic* lights to warn any approaching *Rail Traffic* by flashing the *Headlights*.

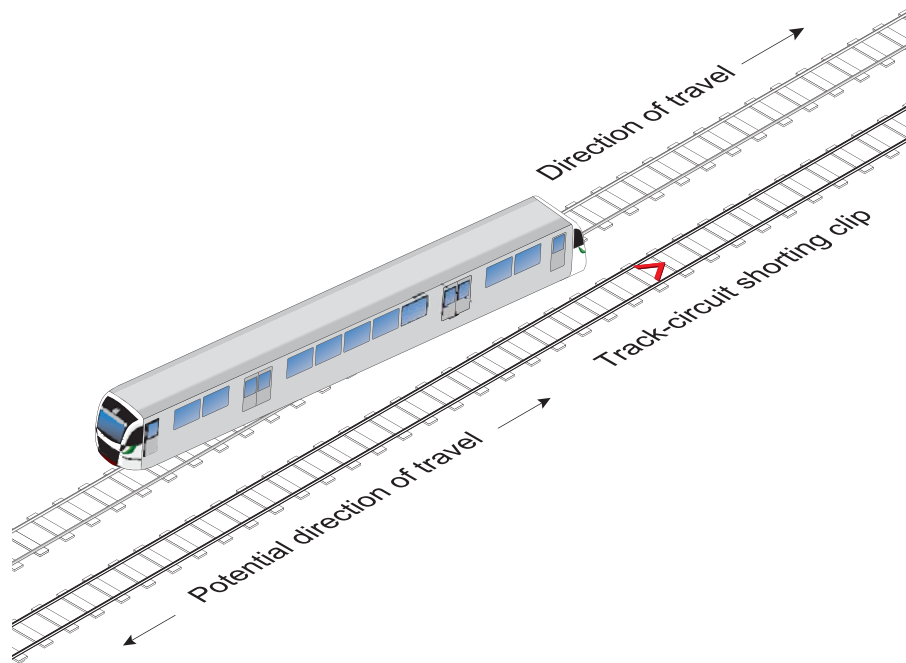


FIGURE 3.1: *Track Circuit Shorting Clip* placement to protect an *Adjacent line* when *Obstructed*, where there are *Bidirectional lines*.

4. RESTRAINT AUTHORITY

Rail Traffic Crews that have been issued a *Restraint Authority* must not allow their *Rail Traffic* to move unless the Train Controller has cancelled the *Restraint Authority*.

5. REFERENCE

Rule 2009 Reporting and Responding to a Condition Affecting the Network (CAN)

Rule 6003 Blocking Facilities

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

24 July 2017