

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**  
SAFEWORKING RULES AND PROCEDURES

**4007**  
RAIL TRAFFIC  
WHISTLES

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## 1. PURPOSE

This purpose of this rule is to detail the protocols concerning *Whistles* which are used by *Rail Traffic* to give audible *Warning* or acknowledge *Handsignals* in the Public Transport Authority (PTA) *Network*.

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## 2. GENERAL

Before *Rail Traffic* enters the *Network*, *Rail Traffic Whistles* must be working correctly.

*Rail Traffic Whistles* must not be sounded unless a valid reason exists.

*Rail Traffic Whistles* must be sounded with appropriate intensity, length and repetition for the circumstances.

Unless otherwise prohibited, *Rail Traffic Whistles* must be sounded when:

- approaching road *Level Crossings*;
- approaching pedestrian *Level Crossings* not fitted with automatic gates, *Warning* lights and bells;
- necessary for safety;
- people or animals are on or near the *Track*;
- acknowledging *Handsignals*; and
- otherwise required by the *PTA Safeworking Rules and Procedures*.

Where multiple *Rail Traffic* movements are likely to simultaneously approach a *Level Crossing*, the *Rail Traffic Crew* must repeatedly sound the *Whistle* until *Rail Traffic* has reached the *Level Crossing*.

The *Rail Traffic Crew* must sound the *Whistle* when approaching *Locations* where there is limited *Sighting Distance* when the *Rail Traffic* movement is travelling in the *Wrong Running Direction* on a *Unidirectional Track*.

## 2.1. WHISTLE CODES

*Rail Traffic Crew* must use the following *Whistle* codes:

CODE	MEANING
One long whistle	<i>Warning</i> , challenge or approaching a road or pedestrian <i>Level Crossing</i> .
One short whistle	Acknowledgment or moving off in depots.
Two short whistles	Setting back.
Three short whistles	Danger-Stop.
Continuous whistling	When assistance is required

## 2.2. FAILURE TO ACKNOWLEDGE RAIL TRAFFIC WHISTLE

If an expected response or acknowledgment to the *Rail Traffic Whistle* is not received, the *Rail Traffic Crew* must continue to sound the *Whistle* and, if required, attempt to Stop the *Rail Traffic*.

## 3. FAILED WHISTLE

The *Rail Traffic Crew* must report all cases of *Whistle* failure to the *Train Controller* and to the *Operators' Representative*.

### 3.1. RESPONSE TO FAILURE

The *Rail Traffic Crew* and the *Train Controller* must make arrangements to:

- effect repairs;
- remarshal the *Motive Power Units*; or
- replace the lead *Motive Power Units*.

### 3.2. RUNNING WITH FAILED WHISTLE

If the *Whistle* fails and cannot be repaired and no other *Motive Power Units* can be used as the lead unit, the *Rail Traffic Crew* must:

- continue the movement and *Travel* at;
  - *Controlled Speed* if visibility is good; or
  - *Restricted Speed* during periods of *Low Visibility*;
- flash the *Headlights* and other *Visibility Lights* to attract attention where necessary;

- slow to *Restricted Speed* before each *Level Crossing*, being prepared to Stop if road or pedestrian traffic is approaching;
- not proceed over the *Level Crossing*, unless;
  - at an *Active Control Level Crossing* where equipment is operating;
- slow to *Restricted Speed* approaching other *Rail Traffic* where *Workers* may be present on the ground;
- slow to *Restricted Speed* approaching pedestrians on or about the *Track*; and
- slow or Stop as necessary, if the approach of the *Rail Traffic* is not attracting the appropriate attention.

If the *Whistle* and *Headlights* fail and no other *Motive Power Unit* can be used as the lead unit, *Rail Traffic* must act in accordance with **Rule 4005 Rail Traffic Lights and Markers**.

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#### **4. REFERENCE**

Rule 2003 Handsignals and Verbal Commands

Rule 4005 Rail Traffic Lights and Markers

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#### **5. EFFECTIVE DATE**

1 November 2015

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