

**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.

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## 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*.
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## 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