

ANPR 723

Using Block Posts

Applicability

NSW
SMS

Publication Requirement

External Only

Document Status

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2.0	11 October 2015

Introduction

Block posts *may* be used to divide:

- a *pilot staff section* into *blocks*, or
- a block under *manual block working* into smaller blocks.

Block posts allow more frequent following movements.

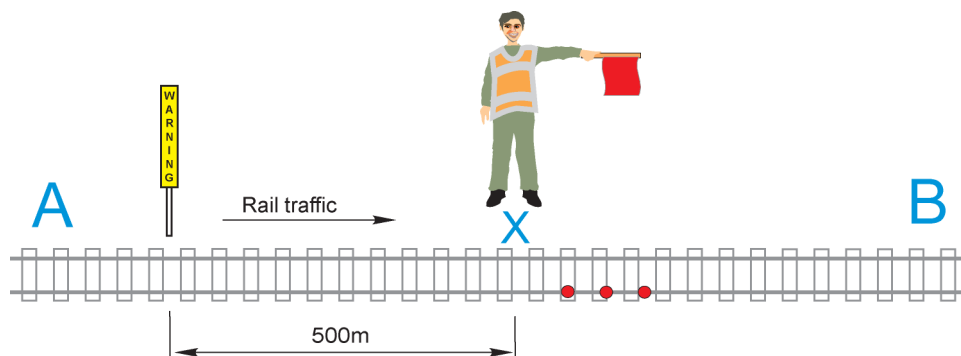
Block posts are established at designated *locations*. There *must* be a clear line of sight between *Drivers* and *track vehicle operators*, and *Handsignallers* at block posts.

If a signal box is used as the block post location, the *Proceed Authority* will be given:

- in the *right running-direction*, by *fixed signals* where they are available, or where they are not available, by the *Qualified Worker* standing at the block post
- in the *wrong running-direction*, by the *Qualified Worker* standing at the block post.

Establishing a block post

Figure ANPR 723-1



Block post set-up at X for rail traffic movement from A to B

Train Controller

1. Get the *Signallers'* confirmation that:
 - the line between the intended limits of *pilot staff working* or manual block working is not occupied, and
 - *rail traffic* will not be *authorised* to occupy the line between the limits of pilot staff working or manual block working before the block post has been established.
2. Authorise the Signaller to establish the block post at a designated location.
3. If the block post will be in a pilot staff working section, tell the Signaller:
 - the running directions for which the block post will be used, and
 - the running direction for the first movement.
4. Record, in *permanent form*, the time that the block post was established.

Signaller

5. Make sure that the line between the intended limits of pilot staff working or manual block working is not occupied.
6. Do not authorise rail traffic to occupy the line between the limits of pilot staff working or manual block working before the block post has been established.
7. Tell a Handsignaller:
 - where to establish the block post, and
 - whether to act as a block post for both running directions, and
 - the running direction for the first movement.
8. Make sure that there is *effective communication* with the Handsignaller at the location.
9. Get assurance that the Handsignaller, and Drivers or track vehicle operators approaching from expected running directions, will have clear sight of each other.
10. Tell the *Train Controller* that the block post is in place.
11. Record, in permanent form, the time that the block post was established.

Handsignaller at a block post

12. Go to the specified location:
 - make sure you have effective communication with *adjoining* Signallers and Handsignallers at block posts, and
 - tell them that you are in place, and
 - ask when to establish the block post, and
 - confirm whether to act as a block post for both running directions, and
 - confirm the running direction for the first movement.
13. If required, place a WARNING sign 500m before the location, in each expected running direction.
14. Make sure that you:
 - stand in a *safe place*, and
 - have a clear view of rail traffic approaching from expected running directions.
15. Record, in permanent form, the time that the block post was established.

Working a block post

Handsignaller at a block post

1. Maintain a STOP handsignal and three *detonators* in the direction of approaching rail traffic until you have been told:
 - that previous rail traffic has passed complete beyond the next *block location*, or
 - that the next rail traffic movement will be from the opposite direction.
2. If detonators are on the line:
 - maintain a STOP *handsignal* to approaching rail traffic until it has come to a stand, and
 - when you are assured that the block you are protecting is clear, remove the detonators from the line and give a PROCEED handsignal.
3. If detonators are not on the line, give a PROCEED handsignal to approaching rail traffic.

4. When rail traffic has passed complete beyond your block post and you have been told the next movement will be from the same direction, or you are not aware of the direction of the next movement:
 - tell the Signaller/Handsignaller at the previous block location the identification details of *trains* and *track vehicles*, and the time when rail traffic passed complete beyond your location, and
 - confirm the direction of approach of the next rail traffic movement.
5. When rail traffic has passed complete beyond your block post:
 - tell the Signaller/Handsignaller at the block location ahead the time that the rail traffic departed your location, and
 - confirm the direction of approach of the next rail traffic movement.
6. Record, in permanent form:
 - the identification details of trains and track vehicles, and
 - arrival and departure times, and
 - whether the rail traffic showed *tail lights* or *end-of-train markers*.

Removing a block post

Train Controller

1. Get the Signallers' confirmation that:
 - the line between the limits of pilot staff working or manual block working is not occupied, and
 - rail traffic will not be authorised to occupy the line between the limits of pilot staff working or manual block working before the block post has been removed.
2. Authorise the Signaller to remove the block post.
3. Record, in permanent form, the time that the block post was removed.

Signallers

4. Confirm from the Signaller/Handsignaller for the exit-end limit that the line between the limits of pilot staff working or manual block working is not occupied.
5. Do not authorise rail traffic to occupy the line between the limits of pilot staff working or manual block working before the block post has been removed.
6. Tell the Handsignaller at the block post:
 - that the block post is no longer needed, and
 - to remove detonators from the line, and
 - to tell you when this has been done.
7. Tell the Train Controller, affected Signallers, and Handsignallers at other block posts, that the block post has been removed.
8. Record, in permanent form, the time that the block post was removed.

Handsignaller at a block post

9. Remove detonators from the line.
10. If necessary, remove WARNING signs.
11. Tell the Signaller that *protection* has been removed.
12. Record, in permanent form, the time that the block post was removed.

Related ARTC Network Procedures

ANPR 709	Using detonators
ANPR 722	Manual block working
ANPR 724	Using clearance locations

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