

Route Access Standard Appendix B Train Numbering

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1 Train Number Convention ARTC

1.1 Train Numbering

Train Numbering is updated and maintained on the ARTC website, covering the whole network.

ARTC owns and issues train numbers for the ARTC Network.

1.1.1 Freight and Passenger (Defined Interstate Rail Network)

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION			
N AAN	First character – The day of the week on which the train departs			
	1 = Sunday	5 = Thursday		
	2 = Monday	6 = Friday		
	3 = Tuesday	7 = Saturday		
	4 = Wednesday			
N A AN	Second character – The city, location	n or region in which the train commenced		
	A = Adelaide	N = Newcastle		
	B = Brisbane	O = Fisherman Islands		
	C = Junee/Cootamundra/Griffith	P = Perth		
	D = Darwin	Q = Moree		
	F = Mudgee/Dubbo/Cowra	R = Port Pirie		
	G = Parkes	S = Sydney		
	H = Hunter Valley	T = Taree – Murwillumbah		
	J = Victoria North East	U = Broken Hill		
	K = Victoria North West	V = Goulburn/Moss Vale/Canberra		
	L = Alice Springs	W = NSW South Coast		
	M = Melbourne	X = Spencer Jct./Port Augusta		
		Y = Whyalla		
NA A N	Third character – The city, location or region in which the train will finish its journey			
	A = Adelaide	N = Newcastle		
	B = Brisbane	O = Fisherman Islands		
	C = Junee/Cootamundra/Griffith	P = Perth		
	D = Darwin	Q = Moree		
	F = Mudgee/Dubbo/Cowra	R = Port Pirie		
	G = Parkes	S = Sydney		
	H = Hunter Valley	T = Taree – Murwillumbah		
	J = Victoria North East	U = Broken Hill		
	K = Victoria North West	V = Goulburn/Moss Vale/Canberra		
	L = Alice Springs	W = NSW South Coast		
	M = Melbourne	X = Spencer Jct./Port Augusta		
		Y = Whyalla		
NAA N	Fourth character – General guide to the sequential order of departure from the originating station			
	0-9			
	Note: The numeral eight shall be used for passenger services only.			



1.1.2 Coal (Hunter Valley Network New South Wales)

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION			
AA NNN	First and second characters – Load/unload point describers			
	AH = Ashton		MN = Mangoola	
	AS = Austar		MO = Mt Owen	
	AT = Mac Generation	n Antiene	MP = Mt Pleasant	
	BC = Bulga Coal		MR = Moolarben	
	BE = Boggabri Coal	Terminal East	MT = Mt Thorley Bin 2	
	BF = Bloomfield		MW = Warkworth Bin 2	
	BG = Bengalla		NA = Donaldson/Bloomfield	
	BO = Boggabri Coal	Loading Loop	NB = Narrabri	
	BR = RN + RC Tand	em	ND = Newdell	
	BW = Mt Arthur		NM = Macquarie Generation	
	CW - Camberwell		NW = Newstan	
	DK = Dartbrook		PW = Port Waratah	
	DR = Drayton		RB = Muswellbrook	
	DS = Donaldson/Bloo	omfield	RN = Rixs Creek Nth	
	DU = Duralie		RC = Rixs Creek	
	EH = Emerald Hill		RV = Ravensworth	
	ER = Eraring		SF = Stratford	
	GD = Gunnedah	_:I:4. ,	TB = Teralba	
	GR = Greta Train Fa	CIIILY	UL = Ulan VP = Vales Point	
	HV = Hunter Valley JU = Wambo/United		WC = Werris Creek	
	JW = Wambo/Jerry F	Plains	WG = Wilpinjong	
	LD = Liddell	idilio	WH = Whitehaven	
	LG = Lithgow		WK = Warkworth Bin 1	
	MB = Maules Creek		WS = Walsh Point	
AA NN N	Third and fourth ch originating location	haracters – Sequential order of daily departure from the		
	100, 200 and 300 series	For services from Hur Valley and return	nter terminals (excluding NCIG) to the Hunter	
	400 Series Refer to Sydney Tra		s TOC Manual for information.	
	500 series	For Gunnedah Basin services		
	600 series	For North Coast servi	ces	
	700 series	For Macquarie Genera	ation services	
	800 series	Refer to Sydney Train	s TOC Manual for information.	
	900 series	All services unloading at for NCIG and originating from any Hunte Valley or Gunnedah Basin load point.		



CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION
AANN N Fifth character – Loaded status	
	Odd numbers = Empty train
	Even numbers = Loaded coal train

1.1.3 Coal (South and West New South Wales)

(Also applies to Services operating between Inner Harbour and Hunter)

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION			
AA NN	First and second characters – Coal loading point			
	AR = Airly	LS = Lidsdale		
	BB = Baal Bone	LG = Lithgow		
	CA = Clarence	MC = Metropolitan Colliery		
	CB = Charbon	TM = Tahmoor Colliery		
	CG = Cringilla BHP			
	GL = Glenlee Colliery			
	IH = Inner Harbour			
AA NN	Third and fourth characters – Sequential order of daily departure from the originating location			
	From 0001 to 0600	Train numbers between 00 and 25		
	From 0601 to 1200	Train numbers between 26 and 50		
	From 1201 to 1800	Train numbers between 51 and 75		
	From 1801 to 2400	Train numbers between 76 and 99		
AAN N	Fourth character – Loaded status			
	Odd numbers = Empty train			
	Even numbers = Loaded coal train			



1.1.4 Intrastate Network

1.1.4.1 New South Wales Intrastate Trains

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION			
NNN	First character – The district in which the train commenced			
	Refer to ARTC train numbering district map.			
	1 = Sydney (Refer to ST)	6 = Grafton		
	2 = Goulburn	7 = Lithgow – Merrygoen		
	3 = Junee	8 = Orange		
	4 = Newcastle (Refer to ST)	9 = Illawarra		
	5 = Werris Creek			
Ν Ν ΝΝ	Second character – The district in which the train will finish its journey			
	Refer to ARTC train numbering district map.			
	1 = Sydney (Refer to ST)	6 = Grafton		
	2 = Goulburn	7 = Lithgow – Merrygoen		
	3 = Junee	8 = Orange		
	4 = Newcastle (Refer to ST)	9 = Illawarra		
	5 = Werris Creek			
NNNN Third character – Any odd or even number		number not already used		
	Note: The third character may be aligned with the Operator code assigned by Sydney Trains for trains entering the Sydney Trains area.			
NNN N	Fourth character			
	Odd numbers = Down trains, away fro	om Sydney		
	Even numbers = Up trains, towards Sydney			

1.1.4.2 Trip Trains New South Wales

For Trip Train Numbering Allocations please refer to Sydney Trains Numbering Principles.



1.1.4.3 Victorian Intrastate Trains

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION	
NNNA	First character – The district in which the train commenced	
	Refer to ARTC train numbering district map.	
	1-4 Not ARTC Network	
	5 Metropolitan broad gauge	

Not ARTC Network
Metropolitan broad gauge
Allocated to North East (standard gauge) (Melbourne – Albury, Benalla – Oaklands)
Allocated to Western (standard gauge) (Melbourne – Wolseley, Maroona – Portland)
Metropolitan standard gauge

N**N**NNA

Second character - The district in which the train will finish its journey

Refer to ARTC train numbering district map.

1-4	Not ARTC Network
5	Metropolitan broad gauge
6	Allocated to North East (standard gauge) (Melbourne – Albury, Benalla – Oaklands)
7	Allocated to Western (standard gauge) (Melbourne – Wolseley, Maroona – Portland)
9	Metropolitan standard gauge

NN N NA	Third character – Any odd or even number not already used	
NNN N A	Fourth character	
	Odd numbers = Down trains, away from Melbourne	
	Even numbers = Up trains, towards Melbourne	
NNNNA	Fifth character	
	V = Operating within Victoria	



1.1.4.4 South Australia Intrastate Trains

CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

NNNA

First character - The district in which the train commenced

Refer to ARTC train numbering district map.

1	Dry Creek to Keswick, Pelican Point	
2	Beyond Keswick to SA border with Victoria	
3	All branch lines south of the Broken Hill line	
4	Beyond Dry Creek to Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Spencer Junction	
5	Crystal Brook East Junction to Broken Hill	
6	Beyond Spencer Junction to Whyalla	
7	All branch lines north of the Broken Hill line and east of the Darwin line	
8	Beyond Spencer Junction to SA border on line to Perth	
9	Beyond Tarcoola to SA border on line to Darwin	

NNNA

Second character - District in which the train will finish its journey

Refer to ARTC train numbering district map.

Dry Creek to Keswick, Pelican Point (Adelaide metropolitan area)
Beyond Keswick to SA border with Victoria
All branch lines south of the Broken Hill line
Beyond Dry Creek to Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Spencer Junction
Crystal Brook East Junction to Broken Hill
Beyond Spencer Junction to Whyalla
All branch lines north of the Broken Hill line and east of the Darwin line
Beyond Spencer Junction to SA border on line to Perth
Beyond Tarcoola to SA border on line to Darwin

NN N NA	Third character – Any odd or even number not already used		
NNN N A	Fourth character		
	Odd numbers = Down trains, away from Adelaide		
	Even numbers = Up trains, towards Adelaide		
NNNNA	Fifth character		
	S = Operating within South Australia		



1.1.5 Passenger Trains

Note: For CityRail services, refer to Sydney Trains.

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION		
A ANN	First character – Direction		
	S = South	N = North	
	W = West	C = Illawarra	
A A NN	Second character – Train type or r	notive power	
	E = Trains hauled by electric traction	within the electrified area	
	L = Trains hauled by diesel locomotives		
	N = Endeavour trains		
	P = Explorer trains		
	R = Diesel multiple unit trains and ra	il motors	
	S = Trains hauled by steam locomoti	ves (special working)	
	T = XPT trains		
ΑΑ Ν Ν	Third character - Trains operating	between the areas of:	
	South		
	S-1 – ST Network and Goulburn		
	S-2 – ST Network and south of Goulburn		
	S-3 – ST Network and Canberra		
	S-4 – Branches south of Goulburn		
	West		
	W-1 – ST Network and Orange		
	W-2 – ST Network and Dubbo/Cobar		
	W-3 – ST Network and Parkes		
	W-4 – ST Network and Broken Hill		
	North		
	N-1 – Used by ST		
	N-2 – ST Network and Armidale		
	N-3 – ST Network and North Coast Branches		
	N-4 – ST Network and Moree		
	Illawarra		
	C-1 – Used by ST		
	C-2 – Used by ST		
	C-3 – Used by ST		
	Suburban area (bounded by Berowra	a, Emu Plains, Macarthur and Helensburg) - Refer to ST	
AAN N	Fourth character		
	Odd numbers = Down train, Even nu	mbers = Up train	



1.1.6 Light Locomotives

A light locomotive can either run alone, or in association with a particular train.

1.1.6.1 New South Wales Light Locomotives

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION		
CHARACTER			
A DDD	First character – Locomotive type		
	D = Diesel Locomotive		
	X = Electric Locomotive*		
	* Light locomotive movements comprising mixed locomotives that include ELECTRIC locomotive(s) are to use the letter 'X' to avoid the possibility of electric locomotive being turned onto unwired roads, or sections of track from which the current has been removed. This will apply with the pantographs in the raised or lowered positions.		
A D DD	Second character – The district from which the locomotive originated or in which it runs		
	Refer to ARTC train numbering dist	rict map.	
	1 = Sydney (Refer to ST)	6 = Grafton	
	2 = Goulburn	7 = Lithgow – Merrygoen	
	3 = Junee	8 = Orange	
	4 = Newcastle (Refer to ST)	9 = Illawarra	
	5 = Werris Creek		
AD D D	Third character – Any odd or even number not already used		
	Note: The third character may be aligned with the Operator code assigned by Sydney Trains for trains entering the Sydney Trains Network.		
ADD D	Fourth character		
	Odd numbers = Down trains, away from Sydney Even numbers = Up trains, towards Sydney		



1.1.6.2 Victoria Light Locomotives

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION		
A DDDA	First character – Locomotive type		
	D = Locomotive		
A D DDA	Second character – Identifies the district from which the locomotive originated or in which it runs		
	Refer to	ARTC train numbering district map.	
	1-4	Not ARTC Network	
	5	Metropolitan broad gauge	
	6 Allocated to North East (standard gauge) (Melbourne – Albury, Ben Oaklands)		
	7 Allocated to Western (standard gauge) (Melbourne – Wolseley, M Portland)		
	9 Metropolitan standard gauge		
AD D DA	Third character – Any odd or even number not already used		
ADD D A	Fourth character		
	Odd numbers = Down trains, away from Melbourne		
	Even numbers = Up trains, towards Melbourne		
ADDD A	Fifth ch	aracter	
	V = Operating within Victoria		



1.1.6.3 South Australia Light Locomotives

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION			
A DDDA	First character – Locomotive type			
	D = Loc	omotive		
A D DDA	Second character – Identifies the district from which the locomotive originated or in which it runs			
	Refer to	ARTC train numbering district map.		
	1	Dry Creek to Keswick, Pelican Point (Adelaide metropolitan area)		
	2	Beyond Keswick to SA border with Victoria		
	3	All branch lines south of the Broken Hill line		
	4	Beyond Dry Creek to Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Spencer Junction		
	5	Crystal Brook East Junction to Broken Hill		
	6	Beyond Spencer Junction to Whyalla		
	7	All branch lines north of the Broken Hill line and east of the Darwin line		
	8	Beyond Spencer Junction to SA border on line to Perth		
	9	Beyond Tarcoola to SA border on line to Darwin		

AD D DA	Third character – Any odd or even number not already used	
ADD D A	Fourth character	
	Odd numbers = Down trains, away from Adelaide	
	Even numbers = Up trains, towards Adelaide	
ADDD A	Fifth character	
	S = Operating within South Australia	



1.1.7 Maintenance Trains

Any maintenance train that crosses a state border to work uses the numbering system of the state in which it is working.

Example: If a train leaves South Australia to work in Victoria, it shall have a Victorian number. If the train returns to South Australia, it shall have a South Australian number for its return journey.

On the rare occasion a train is working on both sides of a border, the number shall be based on the originating state.

1.1.7.1 New South Wales Maintenance Trains

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION		
NANN	First character – Work district		
	Refer to ARTC train numbering district r	пар.	
	1 = Sydney	6 = Grafton	
	2 = Goulburn	7 = Lithgow – Merrygoen	
	3 = Junee	8 = Orange	
	4 = Newcastle (Refer to ST)	9 = Illawarra	
	5 = Werris Creek		
NA NN	Second character		
	M = Maintenance Train		
NA N N	Third character – Identified specific type of train		
	1 = Not used	7 = Track maintenance vehicles/rail	
	2 = Ballast train	grinders ¹	
	3 = Ballast train	8 = Test vehicles ¹	
	4 = Rail train	9 = Herbicide	
	5 = Sleeper train	0 = Not used	
	6 = Spare		
	 To operate under block working conditions unless classified to reliably operate track circuits. 		
NAN N	Fourth character		
	Odd numbers = Down trains, away from Sydney		
	Even numbers = Up trains, towards Sydney		
	Note: Where possible, numbers should be in sequential order of departure originating location.		

1.1.7.2 Sydney Metro Freight Network Maintenance Trains

Any Sydney Trains Maintenance Train will operate under Sydney Trains Numbering Principles. Any ARTC Maintenance Train will operate under ARTC Numbering Principles



1.1.7.3 Victoria Maintenance Trains

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION			
Nanna	First character – Work district			
	Refer to ARTC train numbering district map.			
	1-4 Not ARTC Network			
	5	Metropolitan broad gauge		
	6	Allocated to North East (standard gauge) (Melbourne – Albury, Benalla – Oaklands)		
	7	Allocated to Western (standard gauge) (Melbourne – Wolseley, Maroona - Portland)		
	9	Metropolitan standard	gauge	
NA NNA	Second	character		
	M = Mair	ntenance train		
NA N NA	Third character – Identified specific type of train			
	1 = Not used		7 = Track maintenance vehicles/rail	
	2 = Ballast train		grinders ¹	
	3 = Balla	ast train	8 = Test vehicles ¹	
	4 = Rail	train	9 = Herbicide	
	5 = Sleeper train		0 = Not used	
	6 = Spare			
	To operate under block working conditions unless classified to reliably operate circuits.		conditions unless classified to reliably operate track	
NAN N A	Fourth o	character		
	Odd numbers = Down trains, away from Melbourne			
	Even numbers = Up trains, towards Melbourne			
	Note: Where possible, numbers should be in sequential order of departure from the originating location.			
NANNA	Fifth cha	aracter		
-	V = Operating within Victoria			



1.1.7.4 South Australia Maintenance Trains

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION
Nanna	First character – Work district

Refer to ARTC train numbering district map.

1	Dry Creek to Keswick, Pelican Point (Adelaide metropolitan area)
2	Beyond Keswick to SA border with Victoria
3	All branch lines south of the Broken Hill line
4	Beyond Dry Creek to Port Augusta, Port Pirie, Spencer Junction
5	Crystal Brook East Junction to Broken Hill
6	Beyond Spencer Junction to Whyalla
7	All branch lines north of the Broken Hill line and east of the Darwin line
8	Beyond Spencer Junction to SA border on line to Perth
9	Beyond Tarcoola to SA border on line to Darwin

N A NNA	Second character M = Maintenance train		
na N na	Third character – Identified specific type of train		
	1 = Not used	7 = Track maintenance vehicles/rail	
	2 = Ballast train	grinders ¹	
	3 = Ballast train	8 = Test vehicles ¹	
	4 = Rail train	9 = Herbicide	
	5 = Sleeper train	0 = Not used	
	6 = Spare		
	1. To operate under block working conditions unless classified to reliably operate track circuits.		
NAN N A	Fourth character		
	Odd numbers = Down trains, away from Adelaide		
	Even numbers = Up trains, towards Adelaide		
	Note: Where possible, numbers shoriginating location.	ould be in sequential order of departure from the	
NANN A	Fifth character		
	S = Operating within South Australi	ia	



1.1.8 AK Track Recording Car

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION		
A ANN	First character – Identifies the region		
	W = NSW Western Region	M = Victoria	
	N = NSW Northern Region (including the	A = South Australia	
	north coast, north west and Hunter Valley)	P = Western Australia	
	S = NSW Southern Region	D = Northern Territory	
	C = NSW Illawarra Region	B = Queensland	
A A NN	Second character – Identifies the cars		
	K = AK Car		
AAN N	Third character – Identifies specific type of train and working		
	8 = AK Car – Diesel Loco – non-block working	ng	
AAN N	Fourth character – Identifies direction		
	0-9 indicating up or down trains.		
	Odd numbers = down trains		
	Even numbers = up trains		



1.1.9 Heritage Operators

1.1.9.1 Passenger Trains – Heritage Operator Tours

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION
NANN	First character – Operator
	5 3801 Limited
	6 NSW Rail Transport Museum
	7 Rail Motor Society
	8 Lachlan Valley Railway Cowra
	9 Sydney Rail Services
N A NN	Second character – Train type or motive power
	-E Trains hauled by electric locomotives within the electrified area
	-L Trains hauled by diesel locomotives
	-J Single unit diesel cars / rail motors
	-R Diesel multiple unit trains and (multiple unit) rail motors
	-S Trains hauled by steam locomotives
NA N N	Third character – 0-9
nan n	Fourth character - 0-9
	Odd numbers = Down trains
	Even numbers = Up trains



1.1.9.2 Light Locomotives

CHARACTER	DESCRIPTION
NANN	First character – Operator
	5 3801 Limited
	6 NSW Rail Transport Museum
	7 Rail Motor Society
	8 Lachlan Valley Railway Cowra
	9 ARHS (ACT Division)
N A NN	Second character – Locomotive type
	-Z Steam
	-D Diesel
NA N N	Third character – 0-9
nan n	Fourth character - 0-9
	Odd numbers = Down trains
	Even numbers = Up trains

Figure 1.1 – Train Numbering

