



Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

SAFETY ALERT

ARTC NSW No. 43



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TRACK OCCUPANCY AUTHORITY

Incident

A track machine working within a token section (Electric Staff) on a token TOA exceeded the limit of authority by entering the Yard Limits without the appropriate authority. The Protection Officer did not identify or understand the Track Occupancy Authority (TOA) limits when requesting the TOA. The Protection Officer's opinion was that the Token TOA included the Yard Limits of a location. This incident occurred on the East/West Corridor. There has also been a similar incident on the CRN.

Identified Deficiency

A staff or token is an authority to occupy a section, it is not the appropriate authority to enter or occupy the Yard – a written Track Occupancy Authority (TOA) is required.

Relevant Rule/Procedure

ANWT 304 – Track Occupancy Authority
ANPR 701 – Using a Track Occupancy Authority

(Link)

<http://www.artc.com.au/library/ANWT%20304%20Track%20Occupancy%20Authority%20I%202%20Rev%202.pdf>

ACTION:

- Ensure all Employees under your control, who are involved in Protection work of this nature, are briefed on this incident. Protection Officers, when applying for Track Occupancy Authorities must clearly communicate/define their location and the limits of their TOA and worksite.
- Place the Safety Alert on display and make copies available
- Ensure a “sign-off” (for example, a Team Safety Meeting record) is obtained to verify that employees have been briefed on this Safety Alert.