

ARTC No. 72

Issued 31/10/2014

## PARALLEL LINE PROTECTION IN VICTORIA

### Incident

A near miss was reported by the driver of a train operating on the V/Line Broad Gauge Network parallel to the ARTC Network within Victoria. The driver observed track workers standing between the tracks resulting in the driver applying the emergency brakes. The investigation concluded that the incident was caused by the Track Force Protection Coordinator failing to implement the required parallel line protection on the Broad Gauge line whilst operating machinery on the ARTC Standard Gauge Line that had potential to foul the Broad Gauge lines. Additionally Central Broad Gauge Train Control was not notified of works on the adjacent ARTC track.

Workers are reminded of the requirement in TA20 Section 15 rule 21 Track Warrant Working – ‘Protection of Parallel Lines’ that

*Where a parallel line(s) passes the work site and the works will or – could foul that line(s), the parallel line(s) must be protected by:*

- (1) The issue of an additional Track Warrant for the line, or*
- (2) Implementing Track Force Protection in accordance with Rule 3 (Section 15), as applicable, of this Code of Practice. Or*
- (3) Booking Out the track in accordance with Rule 22 (Section 15) of this Code of Practice.*

Additionally it is a requirement that the Train Controller responsible for any parallel line (s) that pass the worksite must be advised of any infrastructure works on the adjacent line, even if the line(s) passing the work site will not be fouled or obstructed.

### **For your action**

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (eg via tool-box/safety meetings/morning briefings etc) to verify that the safety alert has been distributed and discussed.
3. If you have any safety concerns with Safety Alert No 72, please speak directly to your supervisor.

### **Further information**

All safety alerts issued can be [found here](#).