

## Qualified Workers piloting rail traffic in possessions

**This information has been prepared to remind both Sydney Trains' employees and contractors who are qualified to pilot rail traffic in possessions of the need to be familiar with the interlocking and carry with them the necessary information needed to prevent incidents involving piloted rail traffic.**

### Background

A recent investigation into a derailment in a possession identified that the Qualified Worker acting as the work train Pilot was not familiar with the interlocking arrangements for the location where the derailment occurred and failed to ensure that the points were correctly set for the intended movement.

The incident occurred in night time conditions and the position of the points was not identified by the Pilot with sufficient time to allow the driver to stop the train before passing through the catchpoints and derailling.

### Managers and Supervisors

#### Information, instruction, training and supervision

The WHS Act 2011 sets out specific duties which Sydney Trains, as a 'Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking' (PCBU), must comply with as part of our general duty requirements. These duties include providing workers with information, instruction, training or supervision needed for them to work safely and without risks to their health including but not limited to:

- Training and supervising workers to follow safe work procedures
- Communicating with workers about hazards and procedures to control risk.

Managers and Supervisors are reminded when instructing Qualified Workers to undertake the duties of a Pilot they must confirm that the Qualified Worker understands the movement to be undertaken including the route. The briefing must include confirming the Qualified Worker has knowledge of the interlocking arrangements, locations of critical infrastructure, the limits to which the rail traffic will be required to operate and that the Qualified Worker has in their possession the necessary documentation including a copy of the relevant Possession Notes and a track diagram which identifies the location of signalling infrastructure.

### Qualified workers assigned to Pilot Rail Traffic

#### Network Rules & Procedures

The Network Procedure, NPR 701 Piloting Rail Traffic, provides instructions for piloting rail traffic. Only the following Qualified Workers can perform the role of Pilot for rail traffic into and within a possession:

- Engineering Handsignaller Level 2
- Protection Officer Levels 2, 3 or 4
- Safeworking level 1 or 2
- Track Vehicle Operator.

Qualified workers undertaking the Piloting of rail traffic must establish communications with the Possession Protection Officer (PPO) or the Work Train Coordinator coordinating rail traffic within the LPA and confirm the extent of the movement and route to be taken including the locations of worksites to be encountered.

Qualified Workers assigned the role of Pilot must satisfy themselves that they know the route, locations of points, catchpoints and absolute signals. A simple checklist includes:

- The locations of points and catchpoints
- Yard and Signal limits
- Signallers controlling locations
- Possession limits and the locations of worksites on the intended route
- Other rail traffic within the LPA as shown in the Chronological Train Listing (CTL).

Qualified workers assigned the role of Pilot must brief the crew of the rail traffic and establish the following:

- Extent of the authority (LPA or movement)
- Knowledge of the route
- Locations and condition of points, catchpoints
- The authority for passing intervening signals
- Intervening worksites and protection.

Maximum speed of work trains and track machines in a possession must be no greater than 15kph unless otherwise authorised by the Possession Protection Officer (PPO).

Working in night time conditions inherently places additional demands on our ability to identify the condition or position of signalling infrastructure or activities being undertaken on or about the tracks. Extra vigilance is demanded to identify risks and take necessary action to prevent incidents.

**Managers please ensure that these instructions are provided to all Supervisors and Qualified Workers.**



**David Cameron**  
General Manager  
Asset Management

Date: