

# Blocking facilities

## Purpose

To prescribe the rules for using blocking facilities in the Network.

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## Principle

Blocking facilities are facilities or devices used by Qualified Workers to prevent:

- unintended issue of Proceed Authorities, or
- operation of signalling or point equipment.

Unless allowed in these Rules, equipment with blocking facilities applied must not be operated.



### **WARNING**

Unless you are assured by the Signaller, do not assume that:

- signals have been set at stop, or
  - points have been correctly set, or
  - blocking facilities have been applied.
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## Blocking facilities

### Management of blocking facilities

Before applying blocking facilities to signals or points, Signallers must make sure that affected points are in the correct positions.

#### Temporary removal

Blocking facilities may be temporarily removed from controls:

- to set a different route using the same controls, or
- after safe arrangements have been made, to clear a signal to permit a movement over the blocked route, or
- for inspection, maintenance and testing of the signalling equipment, or
- with the agreement of the Possession Protection Officer or Protection Officer to allow a work train or track vehicle to enter or exit the limits of a Local Possession Authority (LPA) or a Track Occupancy Authority (TOA).

Blocking facilities must be restored to controls as soon as the activity that required their temporary removal has been completed.

#### Permanent removal

Blocking facilities must be removed from controls when the conditions that required their application no longer exist.

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### Recording

Signallers must record, in permanent form, the removal and application of blocking facilities:

- for inspection, maintenance and testing of signalling equipment, or
  - to allow entry to the limits of an LPA or a TOA.
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### Network Procedures

*Nil*

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### Effective date

04 December 2022

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