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## Absolute Signal Blocking

### This information has been prepared to inform Qualified Workers about additional requirements for Absolute Signal Blocking (ASB).

Effective from 18 March 2021, ASB must not be authorised in locations where the Advanced Train Running Information Control System (ATRICS) is not in use.

This SafeTracks has been prepared to address some commonly asked questions about these additional requirements.

### Do these requirements impact the way Drivers, Track Vehicle Operators or Train Technicians arrange protection to inspect or repair rail traffic?

No, these additional requirements apply only to *NWT 308 Absolute Signal Blocking* and *NPR 703 Using Absolute Signal Blocking*.

Protection for Drivers, Track Vehicle Operators or Train Technicians inspecting or repairing rail traffic may be done in accordance with *NTR 432 Protecting activities associated with in-service rail traffic* and *NPR 750 Protecting activities associated with in-service rail traffic*.

### Can ASB be authorised in all ATRICS controlled locations?

ASB may be authorised providing all protecting assets (including signals points and releases) used to protect the ASB are blocked using ATRICS.

If any protecting asset cannot be blocked by ATRICS, ASB must not be authorised.



### If ASB cannot be authorised, how do I determine the correct worksite protection to implement?

Before work commences in the Danger Zone, in accordance with *NWT 300 Planning work in the Rail Corridor*, the Protection Officer must perform a safety assessment to determine the level of protection that is required.

If the Protection Officer's safety assessment determines a minimum of ASB is required, or a Routine Maintenance Worksite Protection Plan specifies the use of ASB, a higher level of worksite protection must be used.

In accordance with *NWT 300*, higher levels of worksite protection include TWA, TOA, or LPA.

#### NOTE

The level of safety must not be reduced:

- to allow rail traffic movements, or
- because of a lack of qualified workers.

### As a Protection Officer, how will I know which areas are ATRICS controlled locations?

Whilst there are number of maps available to assist in identifying ATRICS controlled locations, Protection Officers need to confirm with the controlling Signaller that all the assets needed to protect the ASB can be blocked using ATRICS.



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