

# Responding to faulty points

## Introduction

If it is safe to do so, points may be inspected and manually operated using either the Absolute Signal Blocking (ASB) method or the Lookout Working method of working.



### WARNING

Make sure that:

- safety measures are in place before you start work in the Danger Zone
- there is an easily reached safe place near the points.

## Responding to faulty points

### Signaller or Signaller's delegate

1. If points do not respond correctly to signal box control:
  - apply blocking facilities
  - tell a Signals Maintenance Representative
  - tell the Network Controller.
2. If possible, tell a Qualified Worker to:
  - inspect the points
  - if necessary, remove obstructions
  - if necessary, operate the points manually.

## Responding to faulty points

3. Tell a Qualified Worker who needs to operate the points manually:
  - the equipment identification number of the set of points
  - where to find the points emergency cabinet, and where to get the key
  - how many points machines are fitted
  - the types of points
  - whether to change the route setting.
4. If you are not sure that the points-locking mechanism can engage correctly, have the points clipped and locked.

### Inspecting the points

#### *Qualified Worker*

1. Check the equipment identification number of the points.
2. Check the current position of the points.
3. Check whether point clips are fitted.
4. If possible, check whether the points-locking mechanism of each machine is engaged.
5. Look to see why the points are not working correctly.
6. Get instructions from the Signaller.

### Removing obstructions

#### *Qualified Worker*

There may be an obstruction between a switch rail and the stock rail, or interference with a points-locking mechanism.

## Responding to faulty points



### WARNING

Do not put your hands or feet where they may be caught by moving points or mechanisms.

1. If points need to be moved to remove an obstruction, ask the Signaller to move the points.

*Signaller*

2. Move the points, and apply and remove blocking facilities only as required by the Qualified Worker.

*Qualified Worker*

3. Use a suitable tool to remove the obstruction.
4. Ask the Signaller to test the points.
5. Confirm with the Signaller that the points operate correctly.
6. If they do not, get instructions from the Signaller.

### Network Procedures

*NPR 703 Using Absolute Signal Blocking*

*NPR 707 Clipping points*

*NPR 711 Using Lookouts*

*NPR 742 Manually operating cranked electric points*

*NPR 743 Manually operating hand throw electric points*

*NPR 744 Manually operating electro pneumatic points*

### Effective date

30 September 2018