

## Procedures

# NPR 736 Using bell signals

## Description

This document describes the procedure for using bell signals.

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## Introduction

Bell signals are coded messages sent between signal boxes. They are sent as groups, of keystrokes or plunger presses, separated by pauses.

## Bell signals

Message	Bell signal		
SPEAK ON TELEPHONE	1 ●		
IS LINE CLEAR FOR PASSENGER TRAIN?	4 ● ● ● ●		
IS LINE CLEAR FOR LIGHT LOCOMOTIVE?	2 ● ●	3 ● ● ●	
IS LINE CLEAR FOR FREIGHT TRAIN?	1 ●	2 ● ●	1 ●
TRAIN DEPARTURE	2 ● ●		
TRAIN ARRIVED	3 ● ● ●		
CANCEL LAST BELL SIGNAL SENT	3 ● ● ●	5 ● ● ● ● ●	
SWITCHING IN A SIGNAL BOX	3 ● ● ●	3 ● ● ●	3 ● ● ●
SWITCHING OUT A SIGNAL BOX	3 ● ● ●	4 ● ● ● ●	3 ● ● ●

## Procedures

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Message	Bell signal		
TESTING BELLS AND INSTRUMENTS	3 ● ● ●	5 ● ● ● ● ●	3 ● ● ●
OBSTRUCTION DANGER	6 ● ● ● ● ● ●		

## Exchanging bell signals

### Qualified Workers

- 1 Use the standard bell signals shown in the table.
- 2 Use distinct keystrokes or plunger presses.
- 3 Repeat a signal until it is acknowledged.

### Note

Do not assume that a bell signal has been received and understood before the same signal has been repeated back to acknowledge its receipt.

- 4 Acknowledge a bell signal by sending the same signal back to the sender.
- 5 Send the **SPEAK ON TELEPHONE** bell signal, and speak to the message sender, to:
  - confirm the meaning of a signal, or
  - give a negative response to a signal.