

## Procedures

# NPR 748 Track vehicle travel

## Description

This document describes the procedure for track vehicle travel.

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## Introduction

There are special requirements for track vehicle travel in the Network. The term track vehicle includes:

- road/rail vehicles, and
- track maintenance machines, and
- overhead wiring maintenance vehicles, and
- track inspection vehicles.

## Preparing track vehicles for travel

### Track Vehicle Operator

- 1 Make sure that your vehicle is fitted with working:
  - brakes, and
  - headlights, and
  - tail lights or an approved end-of-train marker on the rear of the last vehicle, and
  - hazard lights or amber or orange flashing light.
- 2 Make sure that your vehicle carries, or that you have immediate access to emergency equipment specified in the *Train Operating Conditions (TOC) manual*.

## Travelling track vehicles

### Qualified Worker in charge of a movement

- 1 Before travel begins, make sure that there is effective communication between the rearmost track vehicle and:

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- the leading track vehicle, and
  - intervening track vehicles, and
  - Signallers.
- 2 Before travel begins, confirm with Signaller the details of track vehicles in the movement including:
- the number of vehicles and their identification numbers, and
  - the order of travel, and
  - if the track vehicles are to be block worked.
- 3 During travel:
- report progress to the Signaller as the rearmost track vehicle passes nominated locations
  - get instructions from the Signaller
  - if track vehicles are in a convoy, relay relevant messages from the Signaller to the other Track Vehicle Operators in the convoy.
- 4 Tell the Signaller if the movement has:
- arrived complete within a location, or
  - departed a location, or
  - cleared the main line, or
  - been removed from the line.
- 5 During travel, be alert for workers in the Rail Corridor.
- 6 Get the Protection Officer's authority before entering into a work on track authority or traversing a worksite within a work on track authority.

## Travelling in convoy

### Qualified Worker in the leading track vehicle

- 1 Tell the other Track Vehicle Operators in the convoy about the signal indications as your track vehicle approaches them and any special or relevant instructions.

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- 2 Warn the other Track Vehicle Operators if your track vehicle:
  - slows down or stops
  - approaches the protection limits of a worksite.
- 3 If you lose communication with other track vehicles:
  - reduce your track vehicle's speed, and
  - allow the convoy to close up.

### Track Vehicle Operators

- 4 Adjust your speed according to messages received from Qualified Workers in track vehicles within the convoy.
- 5 Tell other Track Vehicle Operators in the convoy:
  - as you reach agreed, easily-identified locations or reference points during the journey
  - if you need to slow down or stop your track vehicle.
- 6 If you lose communication with the other track vehicles:
  - reduce your track vehicle's speed, and
  - allow the convoy to close up, and
  - travel at a restricted speed.
- 7 If you are not sure of the whereabouts of the track vehicle ahead when you reach its last reported location, travel at a restricted speed.
- 8 If you need to stop your track vehicle, and until your warning is acknowledged, continue to warn following Track Vehicle Operators by the use of one or more of the following:
  - sending two-way radio messages
  - flashing your track vehicle's lights
  - sounding your track vehicle's whistle repeatedly
  - giving a **STOP** handsignal at a safe braking-distance behind your track vehicle.

### Travelling over level crossings

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**Qualified Worker in the leading track vehicle**

- 1 Tell the other Track Vehicle Operators:
  - that your track vehicle is approaching a level crossing, and
  - to reduce their track vehicle's speed and be prepared to stop.
- 2 Tell Track Vehicle Operators whether to:
  - close up safely and travel over the crossing as a group, or
  - travel over the level crossing on the authority of a Handsignaller.

## Related Documents

**NPR 701 Using a Track Occupancy Authority**

**NPR 702 Using a Track Work Authority**

**NPR 710 Piloting rail traffic**

**NPR 715 Protecting Type F level crossings**

**NPR 721 Spoken and written communication**

**NPR 722 Manual block working**