



OTSG 614

Blocking Facilities

Applicability

NSW

SMS

Publication Requirement

Internal Only

Document Status

Issue/Revision #	Effective from
1.0	1 January 2019

Purpose

To prescribe the rules for using *blocking facilities* in the *Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway (OTHR) Network*.


Principle

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

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

Unless allowed in these rules:

- equipment with blocking facilities applied *must* not be operated, and
- *Train Controllers* must not issue *Proceed Authorities* for *sections* that *Train Control diagrams* show as blocked out of use.



WARNING

Unless you are assured by the *Train Controller*, do not assume that:

- **signals have been set at STOP, or**
- **points have been correctly set, or**
- **blocking facilities have been applied.**

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 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.

Recording

Train Controllers must record, in *permanent form*, the removal and application of blocking facilities:

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

Unattended locations

Qualified Workers at *unattended locations* must:

- record, in permanent form, application and removal of blocking facilities, and
- tell the Train Controller that blocking facilities have been applied or removed.

Emergency covers

In *token systems of Safeworking*, only the Train Controller may:

- direct Qualified Workers to apply or remove *emergency covers*, and
- record, in permanent form, application and removal of emergency covers.

Storage

Blocking facilities must be stored ready for use.

Related OTHR Network Procedures

NIL

Effective Date

1 January 2019