

Safety Alert



SA. No. 2011- 06

NOTICE TO ACCREDITED RAIL OPERATORS

Subject

Operation of signalling systems in degraded modes or for track worker protection

Issue

Recently there have been a number of incidents during infrastructure works, caused by incorrect operation of signalling systems in degraded modes or for track worker protection. One such incident occurred at Ringwood on 21 March 2010, where a metropolitan train sideswiped an infrastructure train. The Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) report for this incident can be found at:

<http://www.transport.vic.gov.au/about-us/oci/safety-investigations>

Other recent incidents which have occurred in Victoria include:

- A train entering into a worksite protected by Track Warrants, Seymour, 25 July 2011
- Safe working irregularity during the movement of track machines, Dandenong, 30 June 2011
- Multiple derailments during infrastructure works, South Dynon area, 2009 -2010

On 12 October 2011, Rail Safety Regulation (Queensland) issued Safety Alert 03/11 - Track Blocking and Points Locking – Signalling Systems. This safety alert can be found at:

<http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/Rail-safety/Safety-alerts.aspx>

These incidents highlight the importance of systems and procedures to:

- protect track workers.
- manage operation/movement of on-track vehicles, which may not reliably be detected by track circuits or axle counters.
- manage rail traffic performing non-signalled moves, including moves in areas where the signalling interlocking has been disarranged.

In order to ensure compliance with safety duties set out in the *Rail Safety Act 2006* (Vic), the following should be undertaken:

- rail operators should note this advice and take appropriate action.

For further information in Victoria, please contact Stephen Backway, Rail Signal Engineer on (03) 9655 8903.

THIS ADVICE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris McKeown".

CHRIS McKEOWN
Director, Rail Safety

Date:
24/10/2011

PO Box 2797, Melbourne Vic 3001 www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au

Bus and Rail T. (03) 9655 8949 | F. (03) 9655 8929 | E. information@transportsafety.vic.gov.au
Maritime T. 1800 223 022 | F. (03) 9655 6611 | E. marinesafety@transportsafety.vic.gov.au

