

Safety Alert

ARTC No. 85
Issued 22/02/2016

Transferring of Track Vehicles (NSW Only)

Incident

This alert has been issued following a near miss, at an active level crossing (Type F Predictor Level Crossing) in NSW, between a track vehicle and a car owned by a member of the public.

The track vehicle involved in the incident was traveling in a convoy of three track vehicles. None of the track vehicles were certified to reliably activate track circuits.

After the second track vehicle cleared the level crossing, the lights and bells deactivated (there were no boom gates), leaving a third track vehicle approaching the crossing with no trackside warning equipment operating. At the time, the car had stopped at the crossing for the passage of the first two track vehicles and started to move forward (when the crossing deactivated) before seeing the third track vehicle.

Extracts From Relevant Network Rules and Procedures (NSW Only)

Track vehicle operators that operate track vehicles that are not listed in the ARTC Train Operating Conditions (TOC) Manual as operating track-circuits, are required to follow the requirements set out below when approaching all active control level crossings (Standard Type F and Type F Predictor).

ANGE 218 Type F Level Crossing Management

Rail traffic that may not activate track-circuits

If rail traffic needs to use a Type F level crossing operated automatically by track circuits, but the rail traffic cannot be relied upon to activate the track circuits, Drivers and track vehicle operators must:

- stop short of the level crossing, and
- if possible, manually operate the level crossing warning equipment, or
- arrange to stop approaching road and pedestrian traffic.

Rail traffic may proceed over the level crossing only if it is safe to do so.

NOTE

Track circuit shorting clips must not be used to activate level crossing warning equipment.

ANPR 748 Transferring Track Vehicles [note: this rule applies to all level crossings, not just F Type level crossings]

Travelling over level crossings

Qualified Worker in the leading track vehicle

1. Tell track vehicle operators:
 - that your track vehicle is approaching a level crossing, and
 - to reduce the speed of their track vehicles 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.

Important

Track vehicles that are not listed in the ARTC TOC Manual as operating track-circuits are required to follow the requirements within ANGE 218 Type F Level Crossing Management, ANWT 316 Track Vehicles and ANPR 748 Transferring Track Vehicles.

Track vehicle operators are reminded that they are required to STOP at all Type F Level Crossing, including level crossing fitted with predictor circuitry.

The requirements within ANGE 216 Level Crossings which state *'Rail traffic must not accelerate between the trackside sign advising approach to a Type F level crossing fitted with predictor circuitry and the level crossing'* applies to rail traffic that reliably operate track-circuits only.

For your action

1. Place Safety Alert on display and make copies of this alert available to people who report to you (without regular email access) and ensure that the contents of the safety alert are discussed/explained to your staff.
2. If engaging contractors, ensure they are made aware of current ARTC Safety Alerts.
3. Ensure a method of sign-off is obtained (eg via tool-box/safety meetings/morning briefings etc) to verify that the Safety Alert has been distributed and discussed.
4. If you have any safety concerns with this Safety Alert please speak directly to your supervisor.

Further information

- All Safety Alerts issued can be [found here](#).
- NSW Network Rules and Network Procedures at <http://www.artc.com.au/customers/operations/rules-procedures/nsw/>.
- Greg Watson, National Rules Manager, contact telephone number (02) 4934 9509.