

Purpose

To prescribe the rules for giving and responding to handsignals used in the MTS Network for manually operated rail traffic.

Principle

Giving handsignals

Handsignals must be given:

- in a clear and timely manner, and
- so that they will be received and acted upon only by those who are being signalled.

A Handsignaller must:

- be in or have access to a safe place, and
- be in clear view of those who are being signalled, and
- as required, have effective communication with Traffic Controllers, Rail Traffic Operators or Protection Officers.

Responding to handsignals

If the meaning of a handsignal is not understood the Rail Traffic Operator must stop to find out the meaning.

Rail Traffic Operators must:

- obey handsignals, and
- acknowledge handsignals other than shunting handsignals.

Handsignalling

Handsignals must be given using:

- flags or hands during daylight, and
- lights during darkness or low visibility.

general

Handsignals

A handsignal must be continued:

- for the **PROCEED** and **CAUTION** handsignal, until the cab of the leading rail vehicle has passed the Handsignaller, and
- for **STOP** handsignals, until rail traffic has stopped.

If at a signal, a Handsignaller must:

- be able to see whether the signal is at **STOP**, and
- if rail traffic is required to stop, give a **STOP** handsignal until rail traffic has stopped.

If the signal being held at **STOP** clears, the Handsignaller must:

- tell the Traffic Controller to set the signal at **STOP**, and
- tell the Protection Officer, if provided.

A Handsignaller must stand well away from signals if:

- rail traffic is not required to stop, or
- not signalling at a signal.

STOP handsignals

Rail Traffic Operators must stop their trains or track vehicles if they, or other crew members, receive a **STOP** handsignal given by:

- red flag, or
- a red light, or
- both hands held high.

ALL CLEAR handsignals

Rail Traffic Operators must sound the audible warning device to acknowledge an **ALL CLEAR** handsignal given by:

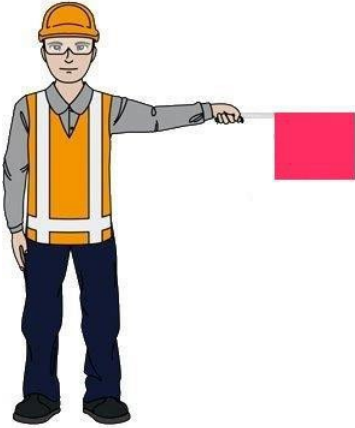


- a white light, or
- one hand held high.

DANGER handsignals

Rail Traffic Operators must stop their trains or track vehicles immediately if they, or other crew members, receive a **DANGER** handsignal given by vigorous waving of arms, a flag or a light.



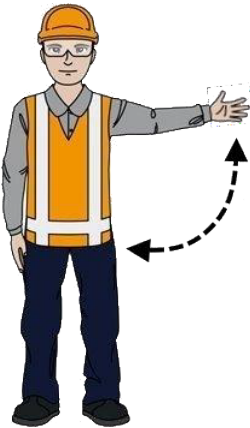
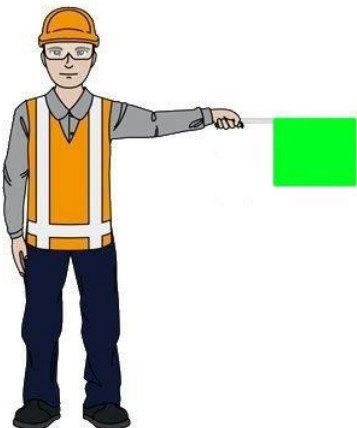
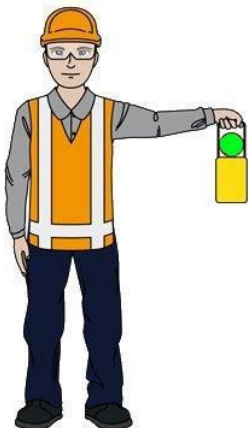


General handsignals

The following diagrams show the handsignals that must be used in the Network.

Signal Meaning	Using Flags	Using Lights	Using Hands
STOP	 <p>Steady red flag</p>	 <p>Steady red light</p>	 <p>Both hands held high</p>

general

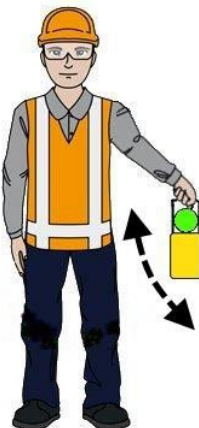



Handsignals

Signal Meaning	Using Flags	Using Lights	Using Hands
PROCEED AT CAUTION	 <p>Wave green flag slowly</p>	 <p>Wave green light slowly</p>	 <p>Wave arm slowly</p>
PROCEED AT NORMAL SPEED	 <p>Steady green flag</p>	 <p>Steady green light</p>	<p>Nil</p>
ALL CLEAR I am aware of your approach	<p>Nil</p>	 <p>Steady white light</p>	 <p>One hand held up</p>

Handsignals

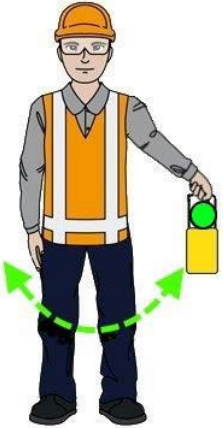


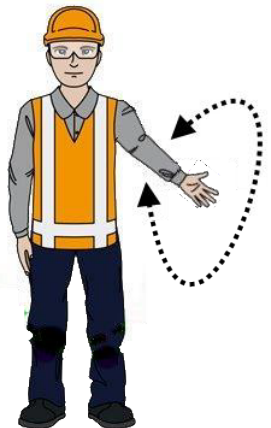
Shunting handsignals

Shunting handsignals must be given as necessary until the end of the planned movement.

Signal Meaning	Using Lights	Using Hands
MOVE AWAY AT CAUTION	 <p>Swing green light backwards and forwards beside the body</p>	 <p>Move one hand and forearm in circular motion, with other hand raised high</p>
MOVE TOWARDS ME	 <p>Wave white light slowly</p>	 <p>Wave arm slowly overhead</p>

general

Handsignals

Signal Meaning	Using Lights	Using Hands
MOVE TOWARDS ME AT CAUTION	 <p>Wave green light slowly</p>	 <p>Wave one arm slowly over head, with other hand raised high</p>
MOVE AWAY	 <p>Swing white light backwards and forwards beside the body</p>	 <p>Move hand and forearm in circular motion</p>

Procedures

Nil

Effective date

28 April 2025