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Reporting and responding to a Condition Affecting the Network (CAN)

Purpose

To prescribe the rules for reporting and responding to unsafe conditions affecting or potentially affecting the MTS Network.

Reporting

Conditions that can or do affect the safety of operations in the Network must be reported promptly to the Traffic Controller responsible for the affected portions of line.

The Traffic Controller must record the report on an *MRF 004 Condition Affecting the Network (CAN)* form.

Responding

If necessary, the Qualified Worker reporting the Condition Affecting the Network (CAN) must:

- prevent rail traffic from approaching the affected portions of line, and
- apply protection in accordance with *MTR 400 Protecting Rail Traffic*.

The Traffic Controller must promptly report the CAN details to:

- other affected Traffic Controllers, and
- the Engineering Controller, and
- the Chief Controller.

As necessary, the affected Traffic Controllers must make arrangements:

- to warn Rail Traffic Operators of manually operated rail traffic approaching the affected portions of line, and
- to prevent rail traffic from approaching the affected portions of line, and make sure blocking facilities are applied, and

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- for the 1500V supply to be isolated in accordance with *MGE 228 Unplanned removal of the 1500V supply*, and
- for the Maintenance Representative to investigate.

The Chief Controller may declare a CAN to be a major incident.

The Traffic Controller must respond to a declared major incident in accordance with *MGE 208 Responding to a major incident*.

Infrastructure restoration work arising from a CAN must be conducted only after the Protection Officer has obtained the appropriate work on track authority.

Warning rail traffic

The Traffic Controller must use a CAN form to give written warning to Rail Traffic Operators if:

- manually operated rail traffic must pass through the affected area at a speed less than their maximum permitted operating speed, or
- rail traffic must be restrained where blocking facilities cannot be applied, or
- it is specified in another Network Rule.

It is possible for the Traffic Controller to implement a Temporary Speed Restriction for Unattended Train Operations to proceed through an area involved in a CAN that does not involve trespassers in the area.

If possible, the Traffic Controller must arrange for a Qualified Worker to give the CAN form to Rail Traffic Operators before rail traffic enters the affected portion of line.

If it is not possible for a Qualified Worker to give the CAN form to Rail Traffic Operators, the Traffic Controller must dictate the CAN warning details to the Rail Traffic Operator.

The Traffic Controller may give spoken warnings to Rail Traffic Operators about other CANs.

Rail Traffic Operators must acknowledge and comply with warnings.

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The Traffic Controller must continue to warn all manually operated Rail Traffic until the CAN no longer exists.

Recording

Rail Traffic Operators must record in permanent form:

- details of the CAN warning, and
- CAN reference numbers.

Returning to normal train operations

If Maintenance Representatives have been requested to investigate a CAN, they must certify the line as safe for rail traffic before the Traffic Controller may authorise a return to normal train operations.

Procedures

MPR 707 Clipping points

MPR 713 Implementing Temporary Speed Restrictions

MPR 720 Protecting Rail Traffic

MPR 721 Spoken and written communication

Effective date

28 April 2025