

Suspending the system of Safeworking

Purpose

To prescribe the rules for suspending a system of Safeworking in the MTS Network.

Principle

A system of Safeworking may be suspended only if the existing methods of special working will not allow the operation of train services.

A system of Safeworking may be suspended only on the authority of the:

- Chief Executive Officer, or
- General Manager for the Operations discipline.

The suspension may be implemented or removed by the Operations Manager, OCC (or delegate).

Officers implementing the suspension must be assured that:

- workers can carry out their duties safely, and
- rail traffic travelling under the suspension of the system of Safeworking can do so safely.

During suspension of a system of Safeworking, the method of working introduced in its place must use as much as possible of:

- the principles of the suspended system of Safeworking, and
- the normal procedures of the suspended system of Safeworking.

Suspending the system of Safeworking

Suspending the system of Safeworking

Before suspending the system of Safeworking, the implementing officer must:

- determine that an existing method of special working will not allow train services, and
- issue instructions about the method of working to be used, and
- direct that movements be safe, and that conflicting movements be prevented.

The implementing officer must arrange for copies of the instructions to be given to:

- Traffic Controllers for the affected areas, including Qualified Workers at stations in the affected area that may be required to take local control, and
- affected Rail Traffic Operators, and
- other affected workers.

Ensuring safety

The implementing officer must make sure that the instructions:

- specify the limits for the authorised movements, and
- do not permit conflicting routes to be set, and
- specify how Point Position Indicators at STOP are to be passed.

The implementing officer must be assured that:

- effective communication will be established between affected Qualified Workers, and
- previously issued Proceed Authorities in affected portions of line have been cancelled or fulfilled, and

Suspending the system of Safeworking

- unless authorised in the instructions, station ATS workstations in affected areas will not be switched in or out, and
- if necessary, rail traffic in the affected areas has been restrained, and
- before it is authorised to do so, other rail traffic will not enter affected portions of line.

The implementing officer must make sure that the instructions require that:

- worksites and obstructions are protected, and
- facing points for movements are secured, and
- if available, Point Position Indicators are cleared.

Ending the suspension

- The Chief Executive Officer or General Manager for the Operations discipline.

must arrange for a nominated officer to:

- give Traffic Controllers for the affected areas instructions to end the suspension of a system of Safeworking, and
- make sure that Traffic Controllers advise all affected workers.

Procedures

MPR 721 Spoken and written communication

Effective date

28 April 2025