

GERT8000 - Rulebook Updates

December 2023

Handbook 10 Duties of the COSS or SWL and person in charge when using a hand trolley

KEY CHANGES

Following an accident in which a trolley was struck by a train, the requirement has been changed to say that a red light must always be displayed in a trolley, and never a red flag.

The competency of safe work leader (SWL) is no longer a recognised one. All references to a safe work leader have been removed from this handbook, including from the title.

The Rule Book has been reviewed to remove cases of gender-specific language which can be taken as an assumption that only males are involved. This may deter applications for employment or promotion. To overcome this, changes have been made to remove any references to level crossings as being 'manned' and replace these with the term 'manually-controlled'. This change was previously published in the Periodical Operating Notice (PON) in December 2022.

In the interests of clarity an explanation has been added that the 'person in charge' referred to in the handbook means the person referred to as the person in charge of the trolley.

For completeness, mention has been added that as well as not passing over an axle counter head, a trolley must not stop within two metres of it, in both cases unless reset arrangements have been agreed. There is an existing instruction to this effect, which does not appear in the Rule Book.

Handbook 13 Duties of the person in charge of the siding possession (PICOS)

KEY CHANGES

It has been pointed out that when possession is taken of part of a siding, a sleeper may not always be readily available to use as part of the protection and may not be easily handled. The wording has been changed to allow a derailer to be used as a more manageable alternative, and also to say that either a sleeper or derailer is only required when there is a particular need to prevent any movements onto the part of the siding under possession. This applies if the part of the siding is unsafe for any movements, the nature of the work being carried out would make it unsafe for any movements, or anyone will be working on or near that part of the siding.

As a shunter may not always be present, the reference to telling the shunter about the possession has been changed to refer to a person in charge of train movements.

The competency of safe work leader (SWL) is no longer a recognised one. All references to a safe work leader have been removed from this handbook.

Handbook 19 Work on signalling equipment - duties of the signalling technician

KEY CHANGES

The Rule Book has been reviewed to remove cases of gender-specific language which can be taken as an assumption that only males are involved. This may deter applications for employment or promotion. To overcome this, the term 'pilotman' is being changed to 'pilot' throughout the Rule Book. All references in this handbook have been changed. As there may be a lapse of time before all corresponding changes can be made, it should be noted that the former term 'pilotman' might still be used but is to be taken as having the same meaning as 'pilot'. This amendment was previously published in the December 2022 Periodical Operating Notice.

Following an incident in which work being carried out by signal engineering staff outside the limits of a possession had the effect of disconnecting equipment, a new requirement has been introduced to include on form RT3187 details of work where the person in charge is not located within the limits of the possession.

The competency of safe work leader (SWL) is no longer a recognised one. All references to a safe work leader have been removed from this handbook.

Handbook 20 General duties of a safe work leader (SWL) working outside a possession

KEY CHANGE

The competency of safe work leader (SWL) is no longer a recognised one and this handbook has been withdrawn.

Handbook 21 Safe work leader (SWL) blocking a line

KEY CHANGE

The competency of safe work leader (SWL) is no longer a recognised one and this handbook has been withdrawn.