



TITLE/SUBJECT:

Failure of Railway Track Signals (RTS)

Type: Serious near miss

LOCATION

V/Line Network – Non ARTC Network

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

ARTC have been made aware of an incident that occurred on the V/Line network on 8-12-21 where two Railway Track Signals (RTS) failed to detonate during the passage of rail traffic movement.

RTS are also referred to as Audible Track Warning (ATW) signals and were previously known as Detonators. They are critical in track force protection work.

RTS are used to produce a loud warning signal to train drivers, indicating; that a train is stopped on the line ahead, there is a worksite ahead or to stop the train. When used (by qualified persons (Flagman or Protection Officer) the RTS is secured to the rail, as the wheel of the train passes over the signal, the RTS is triggered by the pressure and explodes producing a loud sound that can be heard over the sound of the engine.



IMMEDIATE ACTION TAKEN

ARTC Procurement and Supply Team (P&S) have contacted the manufacturer who advises:

- That ARTC have not been provided with any RTS from Batch#: Lot34.21 Expiry Date: 15/07/2026, that contained the RTS that failed.

Approved by: Stuart Ross Acting GM Safety & Environment

Applicability: All ARTC staff

Issued by: Corporate Safety & Environment

HSE Category: Rail Safety

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- **The manufacturer has contacted customers affected by the defective Batch.**
- The P&S Team have reviewed current stock to ensure no items from the affected Batch 34 are in ARTC stores.
- ARTC is following up with the manufacturer to understand the cause of the RTS fault to ensure there is no risk of subsequent failures.

ARTC teams and our contractors must check RTS supplies and confirm RTS from **Batch#: Lot34.21 Expiry Date: 15/07/2026** are not included. If identified they must be immediately removed from service.

RESOURCE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

RLS-PR-001 Management of Railway Track Signals provides details on; the use, storage, signage, management and disposal of RTS.

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