

**TITLE/SUBJECT:**

ARTC Adjacent Line Requirements

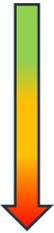
Type: Instruction**PURPOSE**

To clarify how adjacent line hazards are to be managed for all worksites. This bulletin replaces Flash Alert F0015 (and its supporting information).

ACTION REQUIRED

Following feedback on changes made to adjacent line controls in April 2022 this bulletin provides clarification on the required controls when working adjacent to a live line. It **does not** replace or supersede any of the existing controls stated in the ARTC Network Rules and Procedures.

The target outcome is to ensure the separation between workers and rail traffic on adjacent lines by implementing the following hierarchy of controls:

- Most effective
- 
- Least effective
1. Eliminating trains on the adjacent line
 2. Safely stopping work and moving to a *pre-defined position of safety* before a train on the adjacent line passes (creating a separation)
 3. Creating a physical barrier between the worksite and adjacent line that maintains the separation
 4. Reduce the speed of the rail traffic on the adjacent line

What does separation between workers and rail traffic on adjacent lines mean in operation?

When planning for work on track, the Safeworker managing rail safety and the Site Supervisor must:

- Assess and discuss with the workgroup, elements of the work task that introduces risk to people or plant being struck by rail traffic on an adjacent rail line, and
- Record any agreed controls for this risk(s) (including the defined position of safety) in the Worksite Protection Plan (WPP) and Pre-Work Brief (PWB).

Approved by: Peter Clements, Group Executive Safety & Environment Applicability: All ARTC staff & contractors

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HSE Category Rail Safety

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If the assessment concludes there is **no potential** to encroach (or foul) within 3m of the adjacent line (people or plant), this must be noted in the PWB and Worksite Log & Diary. No further controls are required to be implemented.

If the assessment concludes there is **potential** to encroach (or foul) within 3m of the adjacent line, then the existing ARTC Network Rules and Procedures are to be followed with appropriate controls implemented.

Where rail traffic **cannot** be excluded and the adjacent line is operational, the following controls are to apply to **all** workers located on track:

1. Prior to the passage of a train past the worksite on an adjacent line, a warning to all workers must be given, at which point **work is to be stopped**. Workers must then be able to safely reach the defined position of safety prior to the passage of the train.
2. If the pre-work assessment identifies the work **cannot** be safely stopped, then **only** workers critical to the work task may remain on track after receiving warning of an approaching train. In this circumstance:
 - a. An approved physical barrier (e.g. temporary fence) is to be used to prevent access to the adjacent line; or
 - b. If it is **not** possible to erect a physical barrier, then the speed on the adjacent line must be reduced.

Leaders Action

Leaders are to ensure that their teams have received and understood the controls to be implemented within this Safety & Environment Bulletin and keep a record of briefings.

If working with contractors, those managing the contractor are to ensure all contractors are issued with this bulletin and provide acknowledgement of its receipt.

If there are any issues identified with this bulletin that would prevent its implementation, please raise immediately with your leader.

Note: A set of [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#) related to this Bulletin are available on the ARTC Website.