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RAILTRACK
Safety & Standards

Briefing Notes for:	Controls for Signalling a Train onto an Occupied Line	
Document No:	GK/RT0044	Issue: I
Subject Committee(s)	TC&C, OSSC	
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Initial Compliance Date	June 2000	

BACKGROUND

For a considerable period of time Railtrack S&SD has been intending to produce a Railway Group Standard on permissive working. However, work has been delayed because of the need to agree with HMRI an acceptable set of principles regarding the circumstances under which passenger permissive working, and in particular platform sharing, can be used.

During the course of the negotiations, the scope of the Standard was broadened to cover most types of train movements onto an occupied line.

The resulting Standard, GK/RT0044, has now been authorised for publication, having undergone extensive consultation with the rail industry. It reflects HMRI's aspirations to limit passenger permissive working as much as possible, whilst recognising that it is not possible to operate a railway without any such working at all.

KEY CHANGES INTRODUCED BY THIS RAILWAY GROUP STANDARD

For the first time, the Standard brings together all the high level requirements for the control, via the signalling system, of movements onto occupied lines. It includes not only technical requirements, but also operational management requirements.

The most significant change from previous practice is the introduction of the concept of the "point of visibility" which serves to limit the distance over which a passenger permissive movement is made.

The Standard promotes the use of mid-platform signals as an alternative to platform sharing permissive working. It is recognised that there are problems in respect of the application of signalling principles for mid-platform signals (overlap lengths and distances between signals, in particular), and these will be addressed in due course.

SSP 76 is cancelled as a result of introducing this Standard.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

The provisions of the standard must be complied with for design and implementation work undertaken on a scheme for which the Signalling Scheme Plan is first approved, or altered and subsequently re-approved on or after 1st June 2000. This extended compliance date reflects the extent of the provisions contained in the standard.

Your attention is drawn to paragraph two of the compliance clause in respect of any proposed change of use of existing facilities.