

## **Provision of information and signs for access on the railway**

### **Synopsis**

This document sets out requirements for provision of information about access to and alongside the railway. It specifies where operational safety signs for personnel on or near the lineside are required.

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## Issue record

Issue	Date	Comments
One	August 2008	Original document

## Superseded documents

The following Railway Group documents are superseded, either in whole or in part as indicated:

Superseded documents	Sections superseded	Date when sections are superseded
GC/RT5203 Infrastructure Requirements for Personal Safety in Respect of Clearances and Access, Issue Three, February 2001	All	04 October 2008

GC/RT5203 ceases to be in force and is withdrawn as of 04 October 2008.

## Supply

The authoritative version of this document is available at [www.rgsonline.co.uk](http://www.rgsonline.co.uk). Uncontrolled copies of this document can be obtained from Communications, Rail Safety and Standards Board, Evergreen House, 160 Euston Road, London NW1 2DX, telephone 020 7904 7518 or e-mail [enquiries@rssb.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rssb.co.uk). Other Standards and associated documents can also be viewed at [www.rgsonline.co.uk](http://www.rgsonline.co.uk).

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## Part 1 Purpose and Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

- 1.1.1 This document mandates requirements for the provision of information and signs for access to and alongside the railway. It specifies where operational safety signs for personnel on or near the lineside are required.

### 1.2 Introduction

#### 1.2.1 Background

- 1.2.1.1 Consistent provision of information at authorised access points to the rail infrastructure is important to rail personnel, contractors and other parties such as the emergency services and utilities personnel having a legitimate reason to require access to the lineside. Similarly, the consistent provision of lineside warning and prohibition signage is of particular importance to personnel such as traincrew carrying out train protection or evacuation, when train movement may be continuing, and where there may be restricted local familiarity with limited clearances and availability of refuges.

#### 1.2.2 Principles

- 1.2.2.1 The requirements of this document are based on the following principles:
- a) Information at authorised railway access points should be displayed in a consistent manner to provide location-specific and emergency communication information.
  - b) Signage used at access points and alongside the railway should conform to recognised standard symbols and wording.
  - c) Locational information and lineside signage are provided for use by rail personnel and other persons having a legitimate reason to be on or about the line (including the emergency services), and should be interpreted in conjunction with the Rule Book, hazard directory, and local restrictions or staff protection systems provided.

#### 1.2.3 Related requirements in other documents

- 1.2.3.1 The following Railway Group Standards contain requirements that are relevant to the scope of this document:
- GE/RT8000 Rule Book, provides rules for working on the railway and includes illustrations of safety signs
  - GI/RT7033 Lineside Operational Safety Signs sets out the specification for the appearance of lineside operational safety signs to provide consistency of form and presentation throughout the network.

#### 1.2.4 Supporting documents

- 1.2.4.1 There are no Railway Group documents supporting this Railway Group Standard.

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## Part 2 Requirements for provision of information and signs for access on the railway

### 2.1 Responsibilities of infrastructure managers

#### 2.1.1 Provision of information about access on the railway – authorised access points

2.1.1.1 Infrastructure managers shall make information on authorised access points available to railway undertakings.

#### 2.1.2 Provision of information about access on the railway – authorised walking routes

2.1.2.1 Infrastructure managers shall make information on authorised walking routes available to railway undertakings.

#### 2.1.3 Provision of information signs – signing of authorised access points to running lines

2.1.3.1 Infrastructure managers shall provide signs to display the following information, as a minimum, at authorised access points to running lines:

- a) The name of the authorised access point
- b) The unique reference number of the authorised access point
- c) The Ordnance Survey grid reference of the authorised access point
- d) The telephone number of the local control centre.

#### 2.1.4 Provision of information signs – requirements for signs in tunnels

2.1.4.1 Infrastructure managers shall provide signs at regular intervals in tunnels more than 120 metres long to indicate the direction and distance to the nearest cross-passage within the tunnel, or exit point from the tunnel.

#### 2.1.5 Provision of warning signs – general requirements for warning signs at obstructions

2.1.5.1 Infrastructure managers shall provide warning signs at obstructions as required in sections 2.1.6, 2.1.7 and 2.1.8, which shall be oriented to face people walking along the running lines, at each end of the obstruction and at any intermediate authorised access points to the running lines, including the ends of platforms.

2.1.5.2 Infrastructure managers shall provide only one of the types of warning signs described in section 2.1.6, 2.1.7 or 2.1.8 at any one location.

2.1.5.3 Infrastructure managers shall, where appropriate, provide additional signs at intervals of not more than 40 metres along the obstruction, oriented to face the running line.

2.1.5.4 Infrastructure managers shall position the warning signs at eye height above walkway level wherever practicable.

2.1.5.5 Infrastructure managers shall not provide warning signs where the obstruction is at a station platform.

#### 2.1.6 Provision of warning signs – ‘Limited Clearance’

2.1.6.1 Infrastructure managers shall provide ‘limited clearance’ signs where a position of safety is interrupted for a distance of more than 2 metres, and the criteria for ‘no refuges’ or ‘prohibition’ warning signs in sections 2.1.7 and 2.1.8 are not applicable.

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### **2.1.7 Provision of warning signs – ‘No Refuges’**

2.1.7.1 Infrastructure managers shall provide ‘No Refuges’ warning signs at locations meeting the following criteria:

- a) Positions of safety or refuges are not provided at least every 20 metres along the side of the running line in question
- b) Positions of safety or refuges are provided at least every 20 metres along the opposite side of the running lines
- c) The criteria for ‘Prohibition’ warning signs in section 2.1.8 are not applicable.

### **2.1.8 Provision of warning signs – ‘Prohibition’**

2.1.8.1 Infrastructure managers shall provide ‘Prohibition’ warning signs at the following locations:

- a) Where there is not adequate time to reach a position of safety or refuge because of sighting distances or other reasons
- b) Where it is not possible to set up a safe system of work while trains are running
- c) Where the permissible or enhanced permissible speed is greater than 100 mph and positions of safety or refuges are not provided at least every 20 metres on at least one side of the running lines.
- d) On bi-directional lines where positions of safety or refuges are not provided at least every 20 metres on at least one side of the running lines.

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## Part 3 Application of this document

### 3.1 Application - infrastructure managers

#### 3.1.1 Scope

3.1.1.1 The requirements of this document apply to all new and existing infrastructure.

#### 3.1.2 Exclusions from scope

3.1.2.1 There are no exclusions from the scope specified in 3.1.1 for infrastructure managers.

#### 3.1.3 General compliance date for infrastructure managers

3.1.3.1 This Railway Group Standard comes into force and is to be complied with from 04 October 2008, except as specified in 3.1.4. Where the dates specified in 3.1.4 are later than the above date, this is to allow infrastructure managers sufficient time to achieve compliance with the specified exceptions.

3.1.3.2 After the compliance dates or the date by which compliance is achieved if earlier, infrastructure managers are to maintain compliance with the requirements set out in this Railway Group Standard. Where it is considered not reasonably practicable to comply with the requirements, authorisation not to comply should be sought in accordance with the Railway Group Standards Code.

#### 3.1.4 Exceptions to general compliance date

3.1.4.1 There are no exceptions to the general compliance date specified in 3.1.3 for infrastructure managers.

### 3.2 Application - railway undertakings

3.2.1 There are no requirements applicable to railway undertakings.

### 3.3 Health and safety responsibilities

3.3.1 Users of documents published by RSSB are reminded of the need to consider their own responsibilities to ensure health and safety at work and their own duties under health and safety legislation. RSSB does not warrant that compliance with all or any documents published by RSSB is sufficient in itself to ensure safe systems of work or operation or to satisfy such responsibilities or duties.

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### Definitions

**Authorised access point**

A designated point where authorised people may gain access to the railway, usually by means of a lockable gate in the railway boundary fence.

**Authorised walking route**

A designated route providing pedestrian access to and egress from places of work (including booking on points and stabling points) and which is suitable for use by people not certificated as competent in personal track safety.

**Permissible or enhanced permissible speed**

The maximum speed published in the Sectional Appendix at which traffic is allowed to run on a line.

**Position of safety**

A place where people may stand safely while trains pass, as set out in GE/RT8000.

**Refuge**

A specially constructed recess providing a discrete position of safety where a continuous position of safety is not provided. See 'position of safety'.

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## **References**

The Catalogue of Railway Group Standards and the Railway Group Standards CD-ROM give the current issue number and status of documents published by RSSB. This information is also available from [www.rgsonline.co.uk](http://www.rgsonline.co.uk).

## **Documents referenced in the text**

RGSC 01                      The Railway Group Standards Code

**Railway Group Standards**

GE/RT8000                  Rule Book

GI/RT7033                  Lineside Operational Safety Signs