

WT07 Lookout Protection

WT07 - 1.0 Purpose

To prescribe the rules for working in the danger zone using Lookout Protection.

WT07 - 2.0 General

All Concerned

You must plan work in the rail network in accordance with the rule [WT01 – Planning Work in the Rail Network].

Refer to the [Rail Traffic Operations] Manual for further information on working in conjuction with a Rail Grinder.

Lookout Protection does not provide track protection as it is a Warning Method using either:

- a horn, or
- a blue and white chequered flag, or
- the voice, or
- touch.

Track Protection Officer

You must only use Lookout Protection if the safety assessment has identified that this level of protection is appropriate for the work to be undertaken.

Lookout

You must be competent in Lookout Protection before carrying out Lookout Protection duties.

You must not:

- work during low visibility or darkness, or
- do any other work.



WT07 - 3.0 Lookout Protection

All Concerned

In accordance with the procedure [NP07 – Using Lookout Protection].

Lookout Protection may be used as a Work on Track Method for work:

- not requiring tools, or
- using tools that can be easily and immediately removed from the track by one person and are:
 - light, non-powered hand tools
 - light, powered tools, or devices.

Lookout Protection may be used as a secondary warning method associated with a Work on Track Authority to protect workers from rail traffic on adjacent track(s).

WT07 - 3.1 Restrictions

Track Protection Officer

You must not use Lookout Protection:

- for work that breaks or obstructs the track or alters track geometry or structure
- where a Work on Track Authority is in place unless it is being used as a secondary warning method.

You must make sure any tools or equipment used for the work do not interfere with the ability of the workgroup to hear and respond to a warning from the Lookout.

WT07 - 4.0 Safe Place

Track Protection Officer

- When using Lookout Protection and before work commences, you must make sure:
- a safe place is available and can be easily reached, and
- you can remove yourself, other workers, tools, and materials



to a safe place when warned by the Lookout, and

- you can reach a safe place, at least 10 seconds before the rail traffic arrives, and
- workers are told about the location of the safe place, and
- the number of Lookouts needed to protect the work is in place.

WT07 - 5.0 Placing Lookouts

Track Protection Officer

When placing the Lookout, you must make sure:

- the location of the Lookout and the visibility conditions give the Lookout enough sighting distance of approaching rail traffic, and
- when rail traffic approaches, Lookouts can warn workers in time to allow them to:
 - react to the warning of the approach of rail traffic, and
 - move themselves and their equipment to a safe place at least 10 seconds before rail traffic arrives.

WT07 - 5.1 Distant Lookouts

A maximum of two distant Lookouts may be used in each direction from which rail traffic may approach, where a single Lookout cannot adequately protect the worksite because of

- inadequate sighting distance,
- the approaches are obstructed.

Where one distant Lookout is used, the distant Lookout must remain in sighting distance of the site based Lookout.

Where two distant Lookouts are used in the same direction away from a worksite, the distant Lookouts must remain in sighting distance of one another.

If additional distant Lookouts are to be used, you must make sure:

- the additional Lookouts always remain in a safe place, and
- the warning time is adjusted to reflect the additional Lookout, and



 each Lookout can see and provide a warning to the other Lookout in the line.

Radio communications may be used by distant Lookouts as a secondary method of communication for warning the site-based Lookout of approaching rail traffic.

WT07 - 6.0 Communication with the Rail Controller

Track Protection Officer

You must monitor the appropriate Rail Control channel when working in the danger zone.

WT07 - 7.0 Lookout Duties

Lookout

When undertaking Lookout duties, you must not:

- do any other work, and
- cease duties until relieved or advised by the Track Protection Officer.

WT07 - 8.0 Before Work Commences

Track Protection Officer

In accordance with the procedure [NP07 – Using Lookout Protection], you must:

- use the [Minimum Warning Time Calculator] at the bottom of the [WP4] Form to identify the warning time requirements
- provide an additional Lookout or other Work on Track Authority if sufficient warning time is not available
- All workers are informed that the Lookout will protect the workgroup.



All Concerned

Only one additional Lookout may be placed in each direction from which rail traffic can approach. Additional Lookouts must maintain visible contact with the Lookout closer to the worksite.



If a minimum warning time of 45 seconds cannot be satisfied, Lookout Protection must not be used.

Track Protection Officer

You must not commence work until the Lookout:

- has tested and confirmed all equipment is in working order, and
- is in a safe place unless a higher level of safety can be achieved by the Lookout being closer to the workers in the danger zone, and
- confirm they are ready.

You must be at the worksite location for the period of the work.

WT07 - 9.0 Approaching Rail Traffic

All Concerned

When warned of approaching rail traffic, you must:

- Immediately move to a safe place, and
- remain there until the rail traffic has passed and you have been told you may recommence work.

The Lookout must acknowledge the Rail Traffic Crew by an *All Clear* handsignal when all workers are in a safe place.



WT07 - 10.0 Review Lookout Protection

Track Protection Officer

If conditions at the worksite and location change, you must:

- inform all workers to stop work and move themselves and their equipment to a safe place, and
- review the safety assessment, and
- determine if it is still safe to use Lookout Protection

WT07 - 11.0 Ending Lookout Protection

Track Protection Officer

To end Lookout Protection, all workers and their equipment must be clear of the danger zone.

WT07 - 12.0 Keeping Records

Track Protection Officer

You must keep records for the Lookout Protection for six months.

WT07 - 13.0 Related Documents

Rule [WT01 – Planning Work in the Rail Network]

Procedure [NP07 – Using Lookout Protection]

Procedure [NP08 – Securing Points]

Procedure [NP09 – Using Identification and Verification of Location]

Procedure [NP10 – Protecting Work from Rail Traffic on Adjacent Track]

Procedure [NP21 – Using Three Step Protection]

Form [WP4 – Worksite Protection Permit]

WT07 - 14.0 Effective Date

09 November 2022