



AUSTRALIAN RAIL TRACK CORPORATION LTD

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Engineering Practices Manual Civil Engineering

Track Machines – Safe Procedures for Starting & Moving

RC 4703

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1. Scope

This instruction details the standard horn signals to be used before starting and/or moving track machines, and sets out the safety procedures and precautions to be observed by people nearby.

2. Reason and nature of change

Document reissued as ARTC Engineering Practice Manual.

3. General

Consideration was given to the Standard Train Operations Horn Signals, of one blast to propel forward and three blasts to reverse, when determining this standard.

4. Definition of Warning Signals

- One **BLAST** - operator sounds the machine's horn for at least one second duration
- One Second **PAUSE** - must elapse between horn blasts
- Five Second **WAIT** - must elapse after the last horn blast, before starting engine OR driving machine forward OR reverse. During this time the operator must listen and look for a warning from anyone not to start of move the machine.

5. Starting Engine: Horn Pattern

BLAST	PAUSE	BLAST	WAIT	IF NO WARNING GIVEN
1 sec	1 sec	1 sec	5 secs	START ENGINE

6. Driving Machine Forward or Reverse: Horn Pattern

BLAST	PAUSE	BLAST	PAUSE	BLAST	PAUSE	BLAST	PAUSE	WAIT	IF NO WARNING GIVEN
1 sec	1 sec	1 sec	1 sec	1 sec	1 sec	1 sec	1 sec	5 secs	DRIVE FORWARD OR REVERSE SLOWLY AT FIRST

7. Changing Direction of Machine in Motion: Horn Pattern

After stopping the machine the operator must repeat the horn pattern as in "Driving Machine Forward or Reverse".

8. Exemptions

If the machine is in motion and the operator reverses direction for not more than 1.8m, the horn need not be sounded.

Where the operator has all round vision (eg. some resleepering machines) and full safety is assured, the operator may operate the machine without giving horn signals.

9. People on and near the machine

People on or in the vicinity of track machines must fully understand the machine/horn safety warnings.

People must not cross the track within 5 metres of the front or rear of a machine in operation.

People attending to track machinery for the purpose of servicing, repairing, inspecting or instructing must ensure that the machine cannot be started or moved unless this can be done safely.