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Point release published 19/11/2022 supersedes GERT8000-HB5 Iss 2  
and comes into force on 03/12/2022



# GERT8000-HB5 Rule Book

## Handbook 5

### Handsignalling duties

#### Issue 2.1



November 2022  
Comes into force 03 December 2022

**Published by:**

**RSSB**

**The authoritative version of this document is available  
at [www.rssb.co.uk](http://www.rssb.co.uk)**

**Contents approved by Traffic Operation and  
Management Standards Committee.**

**For information regarding the Rule Book, contact:  
<https://customer-portal.rssb.co.uk>**

**First issued June 2010**

**Issue 2.1, November 2022**

**Comes into force 03 December 2022**

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## **1 Handsignals**

If you have to give handsignals during daylight in good visibility you must use flags. If you have to give handsignals during darkness or poor visibility you must use a handlamp.

You must make sure the handsignal can be clearly seen by the person who it is intended for. Make sure it is not given in a way that it will be acted upon by someone else.

You must hold the flag or handlamp steadily and do not put it on the ground.

Be careful if giving handsignals near another signal that is at danger. Make sure you do not accidentally give a handsignal that could mislead a driver into passing that signal without authority.

## **2 Detonators**

You must check each detonator to make sure the date of manufacture stamped on it is not more than five years ago.

You must not use any detonator that is older than five years; or is showing signs of rust or decay or is damaged. You must return these to your issuing point.

If you have to place a detonator at a signal, you must place it on the rail at the signal.

### **3 Signal-post replacement switch**

Signal-post replacement switches (SPRS) are provided at some automatic and semi-automatic signals. When operated they place and hold the signal to danger.

Although called a SPRS, they are not always on the signal post but will be near to the signal and may be on a separate post.

If you are going to use the SPRS, you must first make sure the signal is showing a proceed aspect. If it is, you must:

- get the signaller's permission to place the key in the switch and operate it
- operate the key and then check that the signal has gone to danger
- tell the signaller the signal is at danger.

If the signal is not showing a proceed aspect when you arrive, you must tell the signaller and ask for further instructions.



## Signal-post replacement key and switch

### **4 When a handsignaller can be used**

You must be competent to carry out the duties of a handsignaller.

There are only two occasions when you may carry out handsignalling duties. These are when appointed by the signaller for temporary block working or by the pilot for single line working.

On both occasions, the signaller will give the handsignaller authority for train movements.

You must not act as a handsignaller for any other activity.

## 5 Temporary block working (TBW)

### 5.1 Remaining where appointed

When the signaller has told you which signal you are appointed to, you must stay at that signal until you are relieved by another handsignaller or the signaller tells you that you are no longer needed.

### 5.2 Entrance signal

If you are appointed at the entrance signal leading to the TBW section, you must:

- make sure the signal is showing a red aspect
- place one detonator on the rail at the signal
- display a hand danger signal to each train approaching that signal until the train stops.

If the signal is not showing a red aspect, you must immediately tell the signaller. The signaller may ask you to use your signal-post replacement key to place the signal to danger.

When the signaller gives you permission for a train to proceed, you must:

- fill in ticket RT3184 using the details given to you by the signaller
- remove the detonator from the line
- give the driver the necessary instructions
- hand ticket RT3184 to the driver
- show a yellow handsignal to the driver.

When the train has entered the TBW section and has gone beyond the entrance signal, you must replace the detonator on the rail and then display the hand danger signal.

### **5.3 Exit signal**

If you are appointed at the exit signal from the TBW section, you must:

- make sure the signal is showing a red aspect
- place one detonator on the rail at the signal
- display a hand danger signal to each train approaching that signal until the train stops.

If the signal is not showing a red aspect, you must immediately tell the signaller.

When a train stops at the signal, you must:

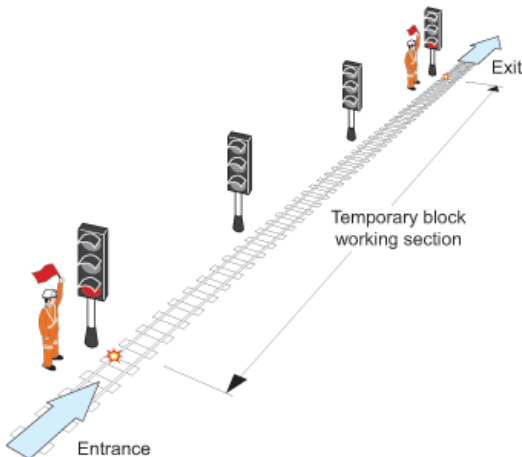
- get ticket RT3184 from the driver
- instruct the driver to obey the signal aspect
- remove the detonator from the rail
- tell the signaller the train has arrived quoting the train reporting number shown on ticket RT3184.

If the signaller tells you the signal cannot be cleared, you will have to instruct the driver to pass the signal at danger when you are instructed to do so by the signaller. After you have passed on any instructions from the signaller, you must show a yellow handsignal.

When the train has left the TBW section and has gone beyond the exit signal, you must replace the detonator on the rail and then display the hand danger signal.



You must tell the signaller when the train, complete with tail lamp, has gone at least 200 metres (approximately 200 yards) beyond the exit signal.



**Diagram HB5.1**

## **5.4 Where TBW is divided into two sections**

If you are appointed at the exit signal from the first TBW section, you will need to deal with each train approaching as shown for the handsignaller at the exit signal and then deal with the train as shown for the handsignaller at the entrance signal.

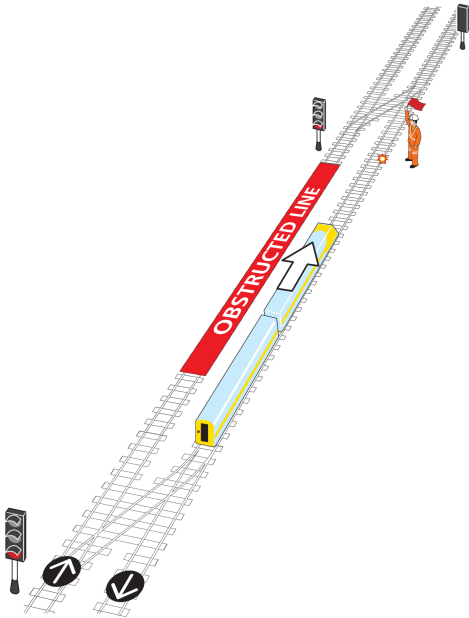
The driver of each train will need to be instructed to pass the signal at danger when the signaller gives permission for the train to proceed.

## **6 Single line working (SLW)**

### **6.1 Staying where appointed**

When the pilot has told you where you are to be appointed to, you must not leave that location until you are relieved by another handsignaller or the pilot tells you that you are no longer needed.

You will normally be appointed opposite a signal as shown in diagram HB5.2.



**Diagram HB5.2**

## **6.2 Trains travelling in the wrong direction**

You must:

- on the line used for SLW, place one detonator on the rail opposite the signal
- display a hand danger signal to each train approaching in the wrong direction until the train stops.

When the signaller gives you permission for the train to proceed, you must:

- remove the detonator from the rail
- repeat the signaller's instructions to the driver
- show a yellow handsignal to the driver.

When the train has gone beyond your location, you must replace the detonator on the rail and then display the hand danger signal unless the signaller tells you the next train will be travelling in the right direction.

If the signaller tells you that the driver of an approaching train in the wrong direction has been authorised to obey your handsignal, and the signaller gives permission for the train to proceed, you must:

- remove the detonator from the rail, and
- show a yellow handsignal to the driver of the approaching train.

### **6.3 Trains travelling in the right direction**

You do not need to give handsignals to any train travelling in the right direction.

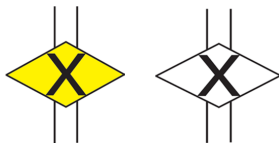
When you become aware that the next train will be travelling in the right direction, you must remove the detonator and hand danger signal.

You must replace the detonator and again display the hand danger signal once the train has passed.

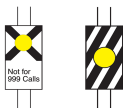
## 7 Telephones with limited clearance

Some signals or telephones are positioned where there is limited clearance between adjacent lines. You will not be appointed at a signal, and you must not use a telephone where one of the signs shown below are displayed, unless arrangements have been made for your safety.

A yellow or white diamond with the letter **X** displayed at the signal.



A yellow roundel on the telephone cabinet.



A red and white chequered board or labels with the words 'Warning-Limited clearance' displayed on the sign.



## 8 Using tents near the line

Tents are sometimes provided for you when you are carrying out your handsignalling duties.

If you have to set up a tent, you must make sure:

- the tent is approved by Network Rail for the location it is to be used at (this is especially important on electrified lines)
- the tent is firmly secured
- where possible, the closed end of the tent is facing oncoming trains
- the tent is no closer than 2 metres (6 feet 6 inches) from an open line.

However, if the speed on the open line is 20 mph or less, the tent can be as close as 1.25 metres (4 feet) from that line.

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