



Subject: Operation of No-Left-Turn and No-Right-Turn Blank-Out Signs During Rail Pre-emption	
Date: January 25, 2013	Author: Steve Drew
Bulletin Number: TE-2013-01 Bulletin Type: Requirement	Effective Date: Immediately
Audience	Standards Affected
Ministry Managers, Electrical Services; all holders of the Electrical and Traffic Engineering Manual; all Project Managers and Traffic Engineers; all Design Consultants	Electrical and Traffic Engineering Manual

Background:

Currently, during rail pre-emption Ministry traffic controllers are programmed to keep no-left-turn / no-right-turn (NLT/NRT) blank-out signs off until highway phase timing has completed and the railway clearance interval has commenced. This programming sequence allows vehicles to enter the rail clearance area between the call for rail pre-emption and start of the rail clearance interval, just before it is to be cleared of traffic.

To prevent vehicles from entering the rail clearance area, the NLT/NRT signs should be activated immediately upon receiving a rail pre-emption call. However, for signals equipped with a protected/permissive left turn phase, activating the NLT sign immediately could lead to conflicting displays where a green arrow and the NLT sign are displayed simultaneously. To prevent conflicting displays, the NLT sign should not be activated until the protected phase has completed.

Policy:

Immediately upon receiving a rail pre-emption call, the traffic controller shall turn on the NLT/NRT blank-out sign except for signals with protected/permissive left turn turn phases. Signals with protected/permissive left turn phases shall serve the minimum left turn green time and the associated yellow time before the NLT blank-out sign is activated.

All other rail pre-emption procedures remain the same.

Procedure:

All traffic controllers with rail pre-emption shall be modified to operate as described.

CONTACT:

Steve Drew, Senior Electrical Standards Technologist
Traffic, Electrical, Highway Safety and Geometric Design Section
Engineering Branch
Phone: (250) 387-7688
Email: steve.drew@gov.bc.ca