

Government of India
Ministry of Railways
Railway Board

No. 98/Safety (A&R)/19/16

New Delhi, Dated: 07.12.2009

The General Managers,
All Indian Railways
Metro Railway, Kolkata and
Konkan Railway, Mumbai

Sub: Precautions for Train operation during Fog.

Ref: Railway Board's letter of even number dated 14.01.2000.

In view of the incoming winter season it is essential that the Zonal Railways take precautions in train operations in fog. The instructions on the subject are advised as under:-

Zonal Railways may ensure the following during foggy weather:-

1. Adequate availability of Detonators at all stations.
2. Lime marking across the track at the warning (sighting) Board.
3. Painting of the Signal Warning (Sighting) Board;
4. Painting of W/L (Whistle) Boards, Fog Signal Post; road signs/lifting barriers etc. of busy level crossings which are vulnerable (or accident prone) to be freshly painted or provided with yellow/black luminous indication strips as per instructions issued from Railway Board.
5. Adequate availability of additional staff for placement of detonators. either from the Engineering Department or from the Operating Department wherever staff is available.
6. No shunting to be carried out on non-isolated lines after granting line clear to an approaching train.
7. As per GR 5.18 during fog; no train is to be advanced beyond the Starter (or intermediate Starter) signal up to the Advanced Starter when the track between them is not track circuited.
8. The speed of the train may be controlled as under:-
 - (i) The Loco Pilot shall run the train at a speed at which he can control the train depending on brake power, load and visibility etc.
 - (ii) During dense fog the loco pilot shall run the train at a speed not over 60 kmph.

In Automatic territory during dense fog the loco pilot shall reduce the speed further to 30 kmph on passing the yellow or double yellow aspect of signals till such time he comes across a green aspect of an Automatic Signal ahead.

- (iii) Loco Pilot shall whistle frequently to warn any Gateman ahead to keep the Gate closed, or the road users at unmanned crossings to ensure that the road traffic does not cross as the train is approaching.

9. The 'Visibility Test Object' would be used to determine the onset of fog.

- (i) All Station Working Rules (SWR) define the Visibility Test Object (VTO). The "VTO" as per GR 3.61 (2)(b) may be an arm by day and the light or backlight by night of a fixed semaphore signal, or a fixed colour light signal specified by Special Instructions. The SMs should not exercise their discretion as per provision of GR 3.61(1) during foggy weather, on the placement of detonators, at stations on the section (other than those which have a lower maximum permissible speed as defined by Special Instructions) where the first signal, to be encountered by the Loco Pilot, is a Stop Signal.
- (ii) The discretion of the SM as provided in GR 3.61 (2)(a) may be used on Sections having stations with permissive signal(s) i.e. Distant or independent Warner. Such stations shall have a 'prescribed VTO' as distinct from the VTO mentioned in Para 9(i) above. The 'prescribed VTO' may be located at a distance of 180 metres from a nominated location where the SM shall stand.
- (iii), The 'prescribed VTO' may be defined in the SWR. The prescribed VTO may be a HS Lamp of a type that corresponds to the specific type of signal lamp on the signals provided at the station i.e. a K-oil HS lamp for K-oil lit signals, or an electrically lit with battery type HS lamp or LED or colour light signals respectively. When a 'prescribed VTO' is not visible from 180 metres or less during dense fog, the SM shall not use his discretion but will place the detonators to warn the Loco Pilot.

10. The copies of the above may be circulated to all stations, crew and guard booking points and running rooms etc. Safety Seminars may be held involving train passing staff (ASM/SMs) and TIs, Loco Pilots, LIs etc. to educate the staff concerned on precautions to be taken during fog.

Kgupta 7/12/09
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Copy to:- Chief Operations Managers, All Indian Railways.