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**Railway Group Standard**

**GE/RT8046**

**Issue Two**

**Date October 2007**

# Spoken Safety Communications

## Synopsis

This document defines the requirements for spoken **safety communications** between people employed by the infrastructure manager and railway undertakings, specifically regarding the safe movement of trains.

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## Issue record

Issue	Date	Comments
One	October 2002	Original document
Two	October 2007	Replaces issue one The title of this document has been amended from the original in order to clarify that it refers to spoken <b>safety communications</b> only.

Revisions have not been marked by a vertical black line in this issue because the document has been revised throughout.

## Superseded documents

The following Railway Group documents are superseded, either in whole or in part as indicated:

Superseded documents	Sections superseded	Date when sections are superseded
GE/RT8046 <b>Safety Communications</b> , Issue One	All sections	01 December 2007

## Supply

Controlled and uncontrolled copies of this Railway Group Standard may be obtained from the Corporate **Communications** Department, Rail **Safety** and Standards Board, Evergreen House, 160 Euston Road, London NW1 2DX, telephone 020 7904 7518 or e-mail [enquiries@rssb.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rssb.co.uk). Railway Group Standards and associated documents can also be viewed at [www.rgsonline.co.uk](http://www.rgsonline.co.uk).

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## Part 1 Purpose and Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

1.1.1 This document mandates requirements for spoken **safety communications** with specific regard to the safe movement of trains on the mainline railway between:

- a) infrastructure managers and railway undertakings
- b) railway undertakings and other railway undertakings

### 1.2 Introduction

#### 1.2.1 Background

1.2.1.1 This standard recognises the need for infrastructure managers and railway undertakings to have a common set of requirements for all spoken **safety** communication interfaces between drivers and signallers or other persons who are permitted to authorise train movements on the mainline railway. .

#### 1.2.2 Principles

1.2.2.1 This standard is based upon the principle that people who communicate verbally to authorise the movement of trains on the mainline railway should do so in a clear and consistent way. The driver of a train must have absolute confidence that the verbal authority being passed to him/her is in the English language and in a standardised, consistent format appropriate to the situation concerned. The practical application instructions for people to apply are contained in GE/RT8000 Module G1 Section 11 regarding the giving and receiving of **safety** messages.

1.2.2.2 This standard also addresses the principle that railway undertakings and infrastructure managers should co-operate in order to pass recorded evidence of verbal **communications** to each other. Such co-operation must be in a manner that is consistent, secure and appropriate to either **communications** performance monitoring or incident investigation.

#### 1.2.3 Related requirements in other documents

1.2.3.1 Conventional Rail Operations TSI (CR-OPE-TSI) section 4.2.1 5 and annex C.

1.2.3.2 GE/RT8000 Module G1 Section 11 regarding the giving and receiving of **safety** messages.

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## Part 2 Requirements for Spoken **Safety Communications**

### 2.1 Responsibilities common to infrastructure managers and railway undertakings

- 2.1.1 Infrastructure managers' and railway undertakings' employees and others working on their behalf shall use the English language for spoken **communications** regarding the safe movement of trains on the mainline railway.
- 2.1.2 Infrastructure managers and railway undertakings shall use standardised **communications** protocols when verbally authorising the movement of trains on the mainline railway.

### 2.2 Responsibilities of infrastructure managers

- 2.2.1 Infrastructure managers shall permit railway undertakings access to recordings of spoken **communications** between their respective employees regarding the safe movement of trains on the mainline railway.
- 2.2.2 Infrastructure managers shall publish the arrangements for railway undertakings to have access to recordings of spoken **communications** between their respective employees regarding the safe movement of trains on the mainline railway.
- 2.2.3 Infrastructure managers shall use recordings of spoken **communications** by its employees regarding the safe movement of trains, for the purpose of monitoring **communications** performance and accident or incident investigation.

### 2.3 Responsibilities of railway undertakings

- 2.3.1 Railway undertakings shall use recordings of spoken **communications** by their employees regarding the safe movement of trains, for the purpose of monitoring **communications** performance and accident or incident investigation.

## Part 3 Application of this document

### 3.1 Application - infrastructure managers

#### 3.1.1 Scope

3.1.1.1 This document relates to all spoken **safety communications** regarding the safe movement of trains on the mainline railway between people employed by infrastructure managers and those of railway undertakings, and between people employed by railway undertakings and other railway undertakings.

3.1.1.2 User procedures for infrastructure managers' signallers, handsignallers, pilotmen and all other persons who are permitted to authorise the movement of trains are found in GE/RT8000 (with the exception of RETB instructions, which are published by Network Rail locally for each route).

#### 3.1.2 Exclusions from scope

3.1.2.1 There are no exclusions from the scope specified in clause 3.1.1 for infrastructure managers.

#### 3.1.3 General compliance date for infrastructure managers

3.1.3.1 This Railway Group Standard comes into force and is to be complied with from 01 December 2007, except as specified in section 3.1.4.

#### 3.1.4 Exceptions to general compliance date

3.1.4.1 There are no exceptions to the general compliance date specified in clause 3.1.3 for infrastructure managers.

### 3.2 Application - railway undertakings

#### 3.2.1 Scope

3.2.1.1 This document relates to all spoken **safety communications** regarding the safe movement of trains on the mainline railway between people employed by infrastructure managers and those of railway undertakings, and between people employed by railway undertakings and other railway undertakings.

3.2.1.2 User procedures for railway undertakings' train drivers together with all other people who are permitted to authorise the movement of trains are found in GE/RT8000 (with the exception of RETB instructions, which are published by Network Rail locally for each route).

#### 3.2.2 Exclusions from scope

3.2.2.1 There are no exclusions from the scope specified in clause 3.2.3 for railway undertakings.

#### 3.2.3 General compliance date for railway undertakings

3.2.3.1 This Railway Group Standard comes into force and is to be complied with from 01 December 2007, except as specified in section 3.2.4.

#### 3.2.4 Exceptions to general compliance date

3.2.4.1 There are no exceptions to the general compliance date specified in clause 3.2.3 for railway undertakings.

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## 3.3 Health and **safety** responsibilities

- 3.3.1 Users of documents published by RSSB are reminded of the need to consider their own responsibilities to ensure health and **safety** at work and their own duties under health and **safety** legislation. RSSB does not warrant that compliance with all or any documents published by RSSB is sufficient in itself to ensure safe systems of work or operation or to satisfy such responsibilities or duties.

## Definitions

### **Employee**

For the purposes of this Railway Group Standard the term 'employee' refers to a person directly employed by, or acting as an authorised representative of, or contractor to an infrastructure manager or railway undertaking.

### **Monitoring**

The process by which an 'as is' measurement is taken by making judgments about the performance of a group, usually from a high-level approach, to identify instances or trends where the required standard was not met.

### **Spoken safety communications**

Any orally transmitted **communications**, which have a direct impact on the safe operation of the railway, such as giving permission for the driver of a train to proceed past a signal remaining at danger.

### **Train**

As defined in the Railways Act 1993.



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## References

The Catalogue of Railway Group Standards and the Railway Group Standards CD-ROM give the current issue number and status of documents published by RSSB. This information is also available from [www.rgsonline.co.uk](http://www.rgsonline.co.uk).

### Documents referenced in the text

#### Railway Group Standards

GE/RT8000            The Rule Book - Module G1 Section 11

#### RSSB documents

RGSC 01            The Railway Group Standards Code

### Further related documents

#### Other References

Conventional Rail Operations TSI (CR-OPE-TSI) section 4.2.1 5 and annex C.