



JOBSON JAMES RAIL

The Rail Insurance Broker

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3rd Rail The electric current rail providing traction current to EMUs in London.

Access Charge The charge paid by railway operators for access to rail facilities that are the subject of an access agreement.

ALO Adjacent Line Open

ALC Adjacent Line Closed

ASLEF Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen: union which represents many train drivers.

ATWS Automatic Track Warning System.

Block Signalling the current (and becoming outdated) signalling system which divides track into blocks and only allows 1 train in each block

BTP British Transport Police

Branch line A minor route diverging from a main line and feeding traffic to it. Typically ends in a terminus but may run between two main lines.

Caledonian Sleeper The London – Fort William / Inverness / Aberdeen Sleeper service.

Carriage Road Line used for moving empty rolling stock.

CDMs Construction [Design & Management] – Regulations

Cess The area alongside and below the level of a railway track into which rainwater is drained.

Chain A unit of linear measurement equalling 22 yards or 1/80 of a mile, marked at side of track with yellow posts.

Chairs The base into which bullhead rail is laid in order to attach it to the sleepers.

Class 1 Trains Express passenger trains, mail trains and some emergency trains.

Class 2 Trains Stopping passenger trains.

Control Table A matrix of statements /outcomes which describe how a rail signal will react in the design / checking of new rail signalling designs.

COSS Controller of Site Safety

CPA Construction & Plant Hire Association.

CP6 Current Control Period – period of investment by the government

CRE Contractors Responsible Engineer

DC Direct Current – power for 3rd Rail.

Deadman Pedal or Handle Slang term for Driver's Safety Device: device on traction rolling stock that will stop the train if the driver becomes incapacitated.

Deltic British Rail Class 55 – 1960s diesel engine now out of service but some have been preserved.

DEMU Diesel Electric Multiple Unit

DEP Designated Earthing Point



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Depot A complex of sidings, buildings, platforms, etc. where transshipment, stabling, servicing, repairs and other such activities are undertaken.

DETs Detonators – only used in emergency situations to signal driver to stop.

DFL Down Fast Line away from London.

Distant signal A caution signal which when in the on position, indicates that the next stop signal is at danger, or at least one of the stop signals within the approaching station limits is at danger.

DMU Diesel Mechanical Multiple Unit

DNO Distribution Network Operator - this relates to electrification and power supplies for stations etc. It is the regional distribution company, such as (2013): North Scotland - Scottish & Southern Energy South Scotland - Scottish Power North East & Yorkshire - Northern Powergrid North West - Electricity North West Ltd North Wales, Merseyside and Cheshire - Scottish Power Midlands, South West & South Wales - Western Power Distribution Eastern England - UK Power Networks Southern England - Scottish & Southern Energy London & SE England - UK Power Networks

Dolly Slang term for a shunting signal in ex-LNER terminology. Sometimes also known as a 'Dod,' 'Dummy' or 'Tommy Dod'.

DOO NP Driver Only Operation – Non-Passenger

Down line That line on a multi-track main line where the direction of travel is away from London.

Down Midnight The 23:55 London Paddington to Penzance Sleeper train

Dropper Component of the overhead line electrical equipment, used to keep the contact wire at the correct height.

DSD Driver's Safety Device: device on traction rolling stock that will stop the train if the driver becomes incapacitated. Popularly known as the 'Deadman's Pedal' or 'Deadman's Handle.'

Duff Class 47 locomotive built 1962-1966. 512 built.

EAS Engineering Access Statement (used to be known as Rules of Route) - an agreement for disruptive access with the TOC to allow the planning of services around a possession

ECML London Kings Cross to Aberdeen (East Coast Main Line)

ECS Acronym for Empty Coaching Stock, used to describe passenger trains not currently carrying passengers.

EMU Electric Multiple Unit

ERTMS European Rail Traffic Management System

ES Engineering Supervisor

ESR Emergency Speed Restriction

Facing Point Lock Equipment that physically locks points so that they cannot move.

Fast Line High speed track next to slower line in same direction.

Feathers A special signal giving drivers access to cross main line crossings.

Fishplates & Clamps -Clamp track together.

Flank Locking Flank locking is a safety feature, incorporated in the signalling equipment, which then prevents signals operating on routes adjacent to other areas with a failure.



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Flank Protection A means of protecting movements of trains across junctions by the setting of points (either manually or automatically) that prevent any other unauthorised movement coming into contact with it.

FOC Freight Operating Company.

Four Foot The area between the inner running faces of a pair of rails. **NOTE GAUGE TOO. 4ft, 8.5inches**

FPL Facing Point Lock: a device to ensure that points which are facing the approaching trains are locked in position

Gauge The distance between a pair of running rails. The standard gauge is **4 foot 8 ½ inches**.

GEMINI A system for resource control of multiple-unit trains.

Goods Line A line, which has not been signalled to the standards required for running passenger trains.

Goods shed A building through or alongside which a railway track and a roadway passes, and which incorporates storage facilities. Such sheds are used for the loading and unloading of goods between road and railway vehicles.

Goods yard A group of sidings where goods wagons are loaded and unloaded.

Green Card Common name for the green defective vehicle label, which is put on a railway vehicle considered **fit to travel within limitations**, ie, only to a place of repair and with restrictions on speed, braking considerations, etc.

Green Zone An area of protection for workers that separates work on the railway line from train

movements. One way of arranging such a zone is to stop movements of all trains on all lines at the location concerned.

Grid Class 56 locomotive. Some of which now re-engined as class 69 by GBRf.

GRIP Governance for Railway Investment Projects –

GRIP 1-3 Feasibility research

GRIP 4-5 Design Phase

GRIP 6-7 Installation & Test Commission

GRIP 7-8 Hand Back & Snagging

Ground frame A small lever frame, either in the open or in an unmanned hut, which controls points or signals remote from the main signalbox.

Ground Signal A loose term for any signal set at ground level, typically shunting signals

GZAC Green Zone Access Coordinator

GZAM Green Zone Access Manager

HABD Hot Axle Box Detector: a sleeper-mounted temperature detector, which warns a signal box of an overheated bearing as it counts the passing wheels. It indicates which axle is faulty and if one axle or wheel is hotter than the others on the train.

HAE Hire Association of Europe (New for Old)

Halt or station halt A railway station with minimal facilities where trains will usually stop only on request.

HAZOP Hazard and Operability Analysis

Headspan Wire Wire suspended across the tracks and from which the OLE is suspended.

Headstock Transverse beam at each end of a coach which takes the buffers and is above the coupling gear.

Home Signal The first stop signal on the approach to a signal box using the Absolute Block system of signalling.



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Hump Shunting Shunting on a slight hill – Tinsley was a huge hump Shunt Yard.

IBJ Insulated Block Joint: a rail joint that separates circuits

ICC Integrated Control Centre

IECC Integrated Electronic Control Centre: a power signalbox where all data displays, safety interlocking, etc. are computer controlled and under normal circumstances trains are signalled automatically according to their TRUST Train ID.

IMC Infrastructure Maintenance Contractor. This could be Balfour Beatty, or AMEC

IP Infrastructure Projects. The name Network Rail's Project division has been called since April 2012

IRSE Institute of Railway Signalling Engineers

IWA Individual Working Alone (as eg. a rail engineer)

Jocko Slang for a 350hp shunting locomotive (Class 08/09).

LE Light Engine (or light electric locomotive) - A locomotive traveling without any attached rolling stock, or with just a brake van in tow

LO Lookout (qualified rail worker)

London-Side A term used to describe a specific point of a location, which is nearest to London

LOWS Lookout Warning Systems

Lunars These are the white light directional indicators, advising drivers which way they are being routed.

Marker Board Double-sided yellow board with two vertical red-yellow flashing lights on one side and two yellow flashing lights on the other used to indicate a work site (possession). There are two types: (i) Possession (red lights) (ii) Work Site (yellow lights). Possession and work site are not necessarily the same

MC Machine Controller (cranes etc)

Medscreen To be 'for cause' screened for drugs and alcohol following a safety related incident

MEWP Mobile Elevated Working Platform

Middle Road Term used to describe through tracks in a station where they are not adjacent to the platforms - used for passing non-stop trains through, frequently at high-speed.

MIMC Maintenance Infrastructure Manager In Charge

MPV Multi-Purpose Vehicle; a specialist rail maintenance train for **de-icing, firefighting, water jetting, clearing leaves and applying Sandite.**

MSRP Major Scheme Review Panel at Network Rail staffed with experienced rail engineers who authorise new rail signalling changes.

Multi-SPAD Signal A signal that has been passed at danger (as defined in category A) more than once in 5 years.

Multiple Unit A train which has the engines or motors built into it, and therefore requires no locomotive.

These units can be coupled together, and driven from the leading cab, when they are said to be running "in multiple".

Medium Voltage Line Cover **MVLC:** (Medium Voltage Line Cover) Provides insulation for catenary, droppers and associated conductors against contact with trees, birds, wildlife or even vehicles and vandalism



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MWL Miniature Warning lights - used on some footpath crossings

NCC National Control Centre; situated on the 7th floor at HQ

NDA Not Described Alarm. Indication received on a Train Describer when a Track Circuit/Signal berth becomes occupied and no train I.D. is transposed. Can be caused by a Track Circuit "flicking" or a Train I.D. failing to step from the previous Signal Berth.

Near Miss A Near Miss is the term that describes an **unsafe event** or act specifically involving a Train or On Track Machinery or On Track plant. To be reported as per Rule Book

Not to be confused with a **Close Call** which is "Anything that has the potential to cause harm or damage"

Near Side Refers to the **left hand side of train** in direction of travel. Standard position of driving equipment on English Railway stock. See Off Side.

NPTC National Proficiency Training Council – governs standards / safety for workers using chainsaws in rail devveg contracts.

NSC National Supply Chain

NSIP national stations improvement programme

Occupation crossing A road crossing a railway by overbridge, underpass, or level crossing, where the railway runs through private property.

Occupied A track section having any part of a train upon it.

Off A signal showing clear to proceed is said to be off. To pull off a signal is to return it to it's all clear indication.

Off Side Refers to the **right hand side of train** in direction of travel. See Near Side.

Off the Road / On the Floor Term to describe a derailment.

OHNS Overhead Line Neutral Section

OLE or OHL-OHLE Overhead Line Equipment: the equipment suspended over the railway for supplying electricity to electric trains, or

Overhead Line Engineer

OLEMI Overhead Line Equipment Master Index

One Train Working OTW Signalling on a single line, with or without train staff, where only one train at a time is permitted.

OOG Out Of Gauge

ORR New department name as April 2015 **Office of Rail and Road Regulations**

OSS Overspeed sensor located some distance in rear of signal which will activate if train passes over it at too high a speed when approaching the signal at danger.

OTM On-Track Machine

OTP On-Track Plant

P and C Points and Crossings: an alternative abbreviation for S&C (Switches and Crossings).

P and M Plant & Machinery



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Paladin Paladin Data Extract and Reporting System: a versatile train performance measurement facility producing analysis reports focusing on train performance and delay attribution

Panel A newly constructed section of track.

Pandrol Clip A clip used to hold in place the running rail to the sleeper.

Parcels train A train consisting of coach-type vehicles carrying packaged merchandise, but carrying no passengers

Pathway A slot of time allocated for a train to travel along the railway.

P&DSW Planning and Delivery of Safe Work

PCL Principle Contractors Licence Holder (Balfour Beatty etc)

Peg Slang for a signal.

Peg Up Slang for giving a Line Clear to the box in the rear when working in Absolute Block regulations.

PGI Escalators and all similar public equipment (lifts, travellers etc) are inspected daily by managed station staff as part of the planned general inspection daily regime

PICOW **Person In Charge Of Work:** responsible for ensuring the safety of staff working on the track or near.

Plain-Lined When part of a set of Points or crossover are removed preventing crossing movements being made through them and effectively making the route affected set for "straight running" only

POE Point Operating Equipment

Portion A set amount of thermic welding material enough to weld 2 rail ends together.

POSE Person operating signalling equipment.

Possession When a section of track is required for maintenance and trains cannot run, it is handed over by the operators to the engineers, who take "possession". Special protective measures are used to prevent access by unauthorised trains. When the track is returned to the operators, the engineers "give up possession".

PPS Possession Planning System - it manages the process for booking and recording of national engineering and access requirements (possessions, worksites, temporary speed restrictions).

Principle Designer A highly qualified person who designs rail signalling systems.

Propelling Moving a train using a locomotive at its rear.

PSB Power Signal Box

PTS **Personal Track Safety:** in relation to the Personal Track Safety Certificate.

Push Pull A method of locomotive-hauled train in which the locomotive is permanently attached at one end of the train and when at the rear is remotely controlled from a driver's cab built into the leading vehicle.

PWAY Permanent Way – short for track & track bed. (eg PWAY contractor)

Q-Trains Trains with British Transport Police on board to combat trespass and vandalism. Also applies to a pathway not always utilised (runs required, for example, a Sandite train)

RCC Railway Contractors Certificate

Rake A complete set of (loco-hauled) coaches.

RAM Route Access Manager



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Depends on context, can be either: Route Access Manager (e.g. buildings, OLE, P&D, Telecoms) or Reliability Availability Maintainability (in connection with systems engineering, reliability engineering and quality of service)

REB Relocatable Equipment Box – houses electrical equipment.

Refuge A dead end siding allowing trains to be shunted off the running lines; also a place of safety in tunnels and alongside high speed lines where employees can stand in safety.

Relief Line A secondary line which runs alongside a main line.

Reversible Line A track on which traffic may be worked in either direction

Red Zone A site of work that is on or near the line.

RHTT Rail Head Treatment Train – special rail maintenance that removes leaves from the line

RIDDOR Reporting Injury, disease, dangerous occurrence regulations.

Right side failure A mode of failure, which causes a piece of equipment to cease functioning without compromising the safety of trains.

RISQS Rail Industry Supplier Qualification Scheme

RME Rail Management Engineer

RMT Rail, Maritime and Transport Union

RO Rail Operator

ROGS Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations.

Rolling Stock Anything with wheels on it which can run on the track including locomotives, carriages, goods wagons, and maintenance vehicles.

ROSCO Rolling Stock Leasing Co.

Rosehill A major manufacturer of rail level crossings.

RPA Rail Contractors Plant Association

RPOS Responsible Person On Site

RRV Road Rail Vehicle

RSSB Rail Safety Standards Board

Rules of the Route Rules agreed with train operators under which speed restrictions or temporary line closures can be imposed for maintenance purposes.

Run By Unauthorised passing of a signal at danger, or overshooting a station or designated stopping point.

S and C Switches and Crossings: the specially machined rails designed to permit trains to transfer between tracks.

S and T Signalling and Telecommunications.

Sandite A special mix of sand and salt applied to rail head from small sandite boxes on rolling stock which can be dropped as and when the track is too slippery for grip (Autumn leaves residue etc).

Section A section of track protected by signals (Section Signals)

Sentinel Personal Track Safety Identification/Certification System.



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Set A complete train, including locomotive and carriages, or a multiple unit train.

SETTOL Seasonal treatment on-Line. It's a database that is used to manage the national seasonal infrastructure treatment plan

SHEQ Safety, Health, Environment, Quality.

(Rail) Shroud – provides insulated protection against electric shock risk as sits over the conductor rail

Signal section The length of running line between any two consecutive stop signals.

Single Line The only line available which can be used by movements in both directions.

Single Line Working Temporary use of one track of a two track or multiple track railway for traffic working in both directions. Methods of operation introduced so that the traffic of a double line can pass over one line (which is not bi-directional) because of engineering work, equipment failure or an obstruction.

Six Foot Commonly used term to describe the space between two adjacent tracks

Sixty Foot The standard length of single rail.

SLU Standard Length Unit: the measurement of the shortest wagon (21ft); used to describe the length of vehicles and loops so it is known if trains can be accommodated.

SLW Single Line Working

SMTM Signalling Maintenance Testing Handbook; a technical qualification enabling the holder to disconnect signalling controls, and take a T (ii) D block.

SPAD "Signal Passed At Danger" without authority. This comes under four categories. "A" being a signal passed at danger by the driver of a train without authority. "B" is where a signaller replaces a signal to danger in front of a train in error or caused by an infrastructure fault. "C" is where the Signaller replaces a signal in front of a train in accordance with the rule book, i.e. an obstruction on the line. "D" is a train running away with no driver.

Special A train that was not in the working timetable, and had been programmed via a special traffic notice.

SPIC Site Person in Charge

SPT Signal Post Telephone. A telephone located on or near a signal where the driver can directly communicate with the signaller. Also used for any other railway staff to contact the signal box.

Spur A piece of railway line which branches off from a main line. Can be used as an alternative route if there is an incident occurring on the main line.

SSoW Safe System of Work - these are plans that are to ensure a safe system of work is in place and that the operational data from the sectional appendix used is accurate.

Staggered Platforms When platforms are not opposite to each other.

Stick Slang for a signal

Stoneblower machine developed to maintain the trackbed.

Stop Block A buffer stop



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Structure A construction such as a bridge (rail, road, foot or equestrian), viaduct, retaining wall, tunnel or similar, signal or electrification post or gantry, station construction such as a platform wall, track drainage manhole or cable pit, and any other construction on Network Rail Controlled Infrastructure.

Substation A building or compound containing electrical switchgear and equipment which supplies electricity to the conductor rails.

Surfers A term used for the dangerous and illegal practice of travelling on the outer surfaces of rolling stock.

Switch Rail The moving portion of rail on each side of a set of points.

SWL Safe Work Leader.

SWM Safe Work Manager

SWTH Signalling Works Testing Handbook; a technical qualification enabling the holder to disconnect signalling controls, and take a T (ii) D block.

T and V Trespass & Vandalism. Now called Railway Crime to reflect the seriousness of these events.

T2 T2 protection is a process of protecting engineering work without taking an absolute possession. In plain English this means that trains can be stopped from travelling on a line on which work is being carried out. The blocking of a line does not interrupt the train service on that line. Work is carried out between trains.

T3 T3 possession (or absolute possession) is a process for preventing trains from entering a discreet length of railway line in order to protect engineering work. The stoppage of trains will disrupt the normal train service pattern. There are protection arrangements at both ends of the possession designed to control the entry and exit of engineers trains.

Tamping Process that compacts ballast under sleepers to maintain the correct geometry of the track.

Tamping machine or Tamper A permanent-way maintenance machine, consisting of a number of vibrating rods, which, when dug into the ballast, cause the ballast material to pack more firmly under the track.

TCS Train Control System

Ten Foot Commonly used term to describe the space between two pairs of adjacent tracks

Terminus A station found at the end of a railway line where departing trains have to travel back in same direction out of the platforms as that from which they arrived.

Thermic Welding A process used to weld 2 rail ends together.

Third rail A system of railway electrification in which the traction current is picked up by a skate or shoe which makes contact with a third rail located between or to one side of the running rails, and returned via both or either of the two running rails.

Through train A train that stops only at major stations.

TOC Train operating company. A company which runs passenger or freight trains on Britain's railway network. The trains are often leased and the trackwork belongs to Network Rail.

Top and Tail Working Running trains with an engine at each end, usually during disruption, to avoid time-consuming running-round movements.



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TOWS Train Operating Warning System: gives audible warning to those working on the track of the approach of the train.

TPOD Temporary Period Of Disruption

TPWS Train Protection Warning System

Track Circuit An electrical circuit that includes an insulated section of track. A train occupying the track will complete the circuit by connecting the two rails together via its wheels and axles thus signalling the trains occupation of that section of track. Track circuits are designed to detect the presence or absence of a train.

Tractor A class 37 diesel freight engine from 1960s. Some are still running today.

Trap Points a junction in the track designed to derail the train to protect a main line or single track ahead from a runaway train

TSR Temporary Speed Restriction.

Trent Valley where the WCML (west coast mainline) diverges from the Birmingham at Rugby today and travels through Nuneaton, Tamworth & Lichfield to reach Stafford and re-join the line from Birmingham.

TVP Track Visitors Permit

UFL Up Fast Line.

Up line That line on a multi-track main line where the direction of travel is **towards London**.

Up Midnight The 20:40 Penzance – Paddington sleeper train.

USL Up Slow Line.

URX Under-Road Crossing – a conduit to carry cables, etc. from one side of the line to another.

UTX Under-Track Crossing – a conduit to carry cables, etc. from one side of the line to another.

Van A roofed railway goods-vehicle

Verifier A qualified person who checks rail signalling designs

Voiding The creation of a space below a sleeper, timber or bearer because of the displacement of the supporting ballast

Vortok Fencing type of fixed fencing between track and workers.

VT Voltage Transformer

Wagon A railway goods vehicle that has no roof.

WCML London Euston to Glasgow Central – West Coast Main Line.

WEN Weekly Engineering Notice: contains details of the engineering work for the forthcoming week that train crews or others may require

Western Class 52 diesel engine from 1960s. Some have been preserved.

Working Timetable A timetable of all trains on a line (passenger / freight etc) issued by Network Rail for staff.

Ying Ying Class 66 locomotive over 500 built