Rule Change Briefing

Transportation

Electronic Delivery of Information

Jan. 26, 2021

Effective Feb. 1, 2021, Electronic Delivery of Information will be added to SSI Item 18. PTC Directive Delivery (PTC DD) information in SSI Item 17, Form C, and Division Timetables is being deleted in its entirety.

Electronic delivery of information via PTC initialized trains will now be in effect across the entire BNSF network. PTC initialized trains may receive the following electronically delivered directives:

- Form A track bulletins,
- Form B track bulletins,
- Crossing warning notifications,
- Track warrants.

SSI Item 18(A) contains instructions on electronic delivery of information in PTC territory.
SSI Item 18(B) contains instructions on electronic delivery of information in non-PTC territory.

Train crews are responsible for complying with electronically delivered directives when notified by the prompt on the PTC display, or contacted by the train dispatcher confirming receipt of the directive, or when directives(s) remain viewable on the PTC display.

Rule Change Effective Feb. 1, 2021

System Special Instructions

Item 18. Electronic Delivery of Information

PTC initialized trains may receive the following electronically delivered directives:

- Form A track bulletins
- Form B track bulletins
- Crossing warning notifications
- Track warrants

Train crews are responsible for complying with electronically delivered directives when:

- Notified by the prompt on the PTC display,
- Contacted by the train dispatcher confirming receipt of the directive, or
- Directives(s) remain viewable on the PTC display.

When crew members responsible for complying with electronically delivered directives are not in the controlling locomotive (such as train service employees in passenger service), the engineer will communicate to those crew members the contents of new directives as soon as practical after the prompt is received and prior to reaching the directive location.

Failure Mode

Electronically and verbally delivered directives are viewable via the PTC display. If PTC status changes to a condition where electronic view of directives is not available on the PTC display, be governed as follows:

Directive	Train Crew Action
Authority	
Authority has been delivered electronically	Stop the train consistent with good train handling and contact the train dispatcher.
Restrictions	
No restriction has been electronically delivered while enroute	Train may continue operating by observing restrictions included in the General Track Bulletin.
Restriction has been electronically delivered while enroute	Contact the train dispatcher to verbally receive the restriction information before reaching the location of the restriction.
Unsure if a restriction has been electronically delivered, or unsure of the location of an electronically delivered restriction	Stop the train consistent with good train handling and contact the train dispatcher.

System Special Instructions ***(continued)***

Item 18 (A). PTC Territory

Trains operating in a PTC active state may receive electronically delivered directives without verbal interaction with the dispatcher. (**Note:** This process does not apply to Form B Track Bulletins.) Train crews must review as soon as practical and follow prompts for acknowledgment.

Directives that are delivered electronically via PTC will immediately be displayed onboard and protected by PTC on trains operating in a PTC active state. When any directive is voided in the system by the train dispatcher trains operating with PTC active will no longer display an associated target and the train crew may consider any directive, other than a Form B, no longer in effect. All Track Bulletin Form B restrictions remain in effect until they expire or are made void by the train dispatcher.

Item 18 (B). Non-PTC Territory

Where taking charge of a PTC-equipped train, the PTC system on the controlling locomotive must be initialized. The train dispatcher will initiate communication that a directive has been delivered. (**Note:** This verbal confirmation process does not apply to Form B Track Bulletins.) Because PTC is in a disengaged state, directives will not be enforced by PTC. When any directive is voided in the system by the train dispatcher, the directive will remain in effect until verbally notified by the train dispatcher.

Authority

Train crews will receive "delivery prompts" for track warrants. Because PTC is in a disengaged state, these will not be enforced by PTC.

The train dispatcher will state the track warrant number, and if included, box 5 (after arrival). Train crew will confirm receipt of the track warrant to the train dispatcher by stating the track warrant number, limits (including track) and total number of boxes marked including which specific boxes are marked. The train dispatcher will confirm information repeated is correct.

Example:

Train dispatcher states: "BNSF 5179 East, did you receive track warrant 725-45 with a box 5 on your PTC display?"

Train crew responds: "BNSF 5179 East, yes we did receive track warrant 725-45 from Anna to Bess on main track with two boxes marked, 2 and 5."

If the train crew cannot confirm the directive is on the PTC display or if the information displayed is incorrect, the directive will be issued using the verbal transmission/repetition process. Dispatcher will notify the PTC desk.

Restrictions

Train crews may not always receive "delivery prompts" for restrictions. It may be necessary to select "view bulletins" on the PTC display to locate the restriction being confirmed. Because PTC is in a disengaged state, these will not be enforced by PTC.

The train dispatcher will contact the train crew and state the restriction number or milepost(s) that restriction applies to. The train crew will confirm receipt of the restriction to the train dispatcher by stating the restriction number (where applicable), milepost(s), speed (where applicable) and track on which the directive applies. The train dispatcher will confirm information repeated is correct.

Example:

Train dispatcher states: " BNSF 5179 East, did you receive form A track bulletin 1355 on your PTC display?"

Train crew responds: "BNSF 5179 East, yes we did receive form A track bulletin 1355 from MP 181.0 to MP 181.5, 10 mph on main track ".

Rule Change Briefing *(continued)*

Questions for Discussion

- ☐ **Are any processes related to electronic delivery of directives changing?**

  No. The existing information is being relocated into one location, SSI Item 18 Electronic Delivery of Information.

- ☐ **Is electronic delivery of information still in effect on PTC, non-PTC, and partial PTC territories?**

  Yes. Division Timetables identify where PTC is in effect on part of or an entire subdivision. SSI Item 18(A) provides information for electronic delivery of information on PTC territory. SSI Item 18(B) provides information for electronic delivery of information on non-PTC territory.

- ☐ **Is electronic delivery nonverbal?**

  On non-PTC territory:
  - The PTC system is used to electronically deliver and verbally confirm receipt of directives to train crews.
  - Since PTC is in a disengaged state, these directives will not be enforced by the PTC system.
  - Every restriction and directive will be verbally confirmed.

  On PTC territory:
  - Trains operating in a PTC active state may receive electronically delivered directives without verbal interaction with the dispatcher.
  - Train crews must review as soon as practical and follow prompts for acknowledgment.

  When PTC is inoperable or cutout:
  - The verbal transmission repetition process prescribed by TDCOM 40.7 and GCOR 2.14.1 must be used.

  Verbal briefings are still required for:
  - Reporting clear of a track warrant that authorizes movement (GCOR 14.10; TDCOM 42.13)
  - Releasing a portion of track warrant authority (GCOR 14.7; TDCOM 42.14)
  - Reporting a switch in POS territory restored to normal position (GCOR 14.10; TDCOM 42.19)

- ☐ **Does electronic delivery of information apply to Form B restrictions?**

  Not at this time. Rules require the train dispatcher verbally deliver Form B restrictions to trains that do not have a copy on their General Track Bulletin (GTB).

- ☐ **Does electronic delivery of information apply to Form C restrictions?**

  Not at this time. Form C restrictions must be verbally delivered to the train crew.

- ☐ **A train is operating with inoperable PTC. Can this process be used to deliver restrictions or directives?**

  For trains operating without operable PTC, the verbal transmission repetition process prescribed by GCOR 2.14.1 and TDCOM 40.7 must be used.

Rule Change Briefing: *Please note that rules and policies that are in effect at the date of issuance of this publication are subject to change. Contact Safety/Rules to determine validity before you use the information in this document at a later date.*

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