

Middleton Railway Trust Ltd.
Driver's Rules Test – Description of Knowledge Required – Version 2

The purpose of a driver's rules test is to establish that the person being tested has sufficient knowledge and understanding of the Company Rules and Train Operating Regulations to be able to follow correctly the procedures that they specify, and the associated precautions that must be taken, in respect of the relevant aspects of the duties that a driver is required to undertake. The following list of these aspects forms the basis for conducting such a test, and specifies the detailed requirements for each aspect.

Aspects of the Duties for which Sufficiency of Knowledge and Understanding is to be Assessed

1. Before trains are run.

1.1 Commencing duties

- (i) Requirements for signing-in, and significance of signing-in;
- (ii) Importance of reading notices, and the significance of the information that should be in them;
- (iii) Importance of checking the repair records, and the significance of the information that should be in them.

1.2 Inspecting a locomotive to establish that it is fit to be prepared for traffic

- (i) The aspects that need to be checked initially (for both steam and diesel locomotives);
- (ii) Procedures for specific checks (particular boiler fittings and gauge glasses);
- (iii) The action to be taken if there are any potential problems.

1.3 Preparing a locomotive for traffic

- (i) The specific items that need preparation, and the associated procedures;
- (ii) The aspects that need to be checked during preparation (for both steam and diesel locomotives);
- (iii) Precautions to be taken during preparation (eg before operating any controls, and particularly injectors);
- (iv) The aspects that need to be checked following preparation (for both steam and diesel locomotives).

1.4 Inspecting the line to establish that it is fit for traffic

- (i) The purpose of this inspection;
- (ii) The conduct of this inspection, and the action to be taken if there are any potential problems.

2. Operation of passenger trains under normal circumstances.

2.1 Marshalling a train

- (i) Establishing the requirements for the train formation;
- (ii) Procedures to be followed when shunting the coaches.

2.2 Ensuring that a passenger train is fit for traffic

- (i) Responsibilities for inspecting vehicles;
- (ii) Procedures to be followed for testing the continuous brakes.

2.3 Starting a passenger train from a station

- (i) The procedure to be followed;
- (ii) The action to be taken in case of any attempt to board a moving train.

2.4 Normal operation of a passenger train

- (i) The importance of maintaining a good lookout;
- (ii) Knowledge of particular features of the line and associated precautions;
- (iii) Responsibilities for the whole operation of the locomotive, and for the supervision of other crew members;
- (iv) Requirements for training other crew members.

2.5 Running a locomotive round a train

- (i) Precautions in respect of clearances;
- (ii) Procedures to be followed for un-coupling, operation of turnouts and coupling.

3. Operation of passenger trains under abnormal circumstances.

3.1 Illness of a passenger during a journey

- (i) How such a situation would be identified;
- (ii) The procedures to be followed if such a situation occurred;
- (iii) Locations of emergency access points;
- (iv) Procedure if a passenger train has to be propelled.

3.2 Illness of a member of the train crew during a journey

- (i) The immediate procedures to be followed if such a situation occurred;
- (ii) The possibilities and procedures for emergency operation of the train.

3.3 Obstruction of the line, or other out-of-course stops by a train

- (i) The immediate procedures to be followed if such a situation occurred;
- (ii) The possibilities and procedures for emergency operation of the train;
- (iii) The procedure for re-starting a train after such a stop.

3.4 Locomotive or rolling stock failures or accidents

- (i) The immediate procedures to be followed if such a situation occurred;
- (ii) The possibilities and procedures for obtaining assistance in such a situation;
- (iii) The possibilities and procedures for emergency operation of the train.

4. Operation of freight trains or multiple trains.

4.1 Ensuring that a freight train is fit for traffic

- (i) Responsibilities for inspecting vehicles;
- (ii) Responsibilities for the loading of vehicles.

4.2 Authorisation of train movements

- (i) Establishing the requirements for the train formation;
- (ii) Establishing the requirements for the operation of the train;
- (iii) The roles of the SRO and the pilotman in multiple train operation;
- (iv) Requirements and procedures for obtaining permission for train movements by radio.

4.3 Control of shunting operations

- (i) Responsibilities for determining shunting movements;
- (ii) Precautions to be taken for individual shunting movements;
- (iii) Responsibilities for setting turnouts and controlling individual shunting movements, including regulation of speed;
- (iv) Procedures for shunting into and out of the Engine House.

4.4 Normal operation of a freight train

- (i) Knowledge of gradients along the line and associated braking requirements.

4.5 Operation of the Moor Road Level Crossing

- (i) Procedures and precautions for trains proceeding downhill;
- (ii) Procedures and precautions for trains proceeding uphill.

4.6 Operation of the Balm Road Loop Level Crossing

- (i) Procedures for the operation of the gates;
- (ii) Precautions for limited clearances;
- (iii) Restrictions on shunting operations over the crossing.

5. After trains have been run.

5.1 Disposal of passenger rolling stock

- (i) Requirements for the stabling of passenger stock;
- (ii) Procedures and precautions for shunting passenger coaches to stable them.

5.2 Disposal of freight rolling stock

- (i) Requirements for the stabling of freight stock;
- (ii) Procedures and precautions for shunting freight vehicles to stable them.

5.3 Disposal of locomotives

- (i) Requirements for the stabling of locomotives;
- (ii) Procedures and precautions for disposing of locomotives;
- (iii) The requirements for recording the operation of locomotives;
- (iv) The importance of recording faults found and the actions taken to rectify them.