



Sydney Tramway Museum

Owned and Operated by the Volunteers of the
South Pacific Electric Railway Cooperative Society Ltd
ABN 70 329 300 628

Corner Pitt Street & Rawson Ave (Old Princes Hwy) Loftus NSW
PO Box 103 - Sutherland NSW 1499 - Australia
Phone: (02) 9542 3646 □ Fax: (02) 9545 3390

TRAFFIC / SAFETY NOTICE

STM Traffic / Safety Notice No. 2008

TITLE: RELEASING HANDBRAKES ON MANUAL LAP BRAKE TRAMCARS.

DATE OF OPERATION: 26/12/2020

DETAILS OF NOTICE:

A reminder to ALL Traffic Staff about releasing the handbrake on manual lap brake trams stabled on Tramway Avenue or at any other location.

Great care must be taken when releasing hand brakes to prevent injury caused by a lever or wheel being allowed to unwind out of control.

“Ensure correct procedure (see attached) is used when applying and releasing handbrakes on a manual lap car”.

Departments Effected

Traffic: Yes/No Workshop: Yes/No Infrastructure: Yes/No

Person Issuing the Notice:

Name: IAN SAXON **Title:** RAIL SAFETY MANAGER

Signature: *J A Saxon* **Date of Issue:** 26/12/2020.

DATE TO BE REMOVED FROM NOTICE BOARDS: To Be Advised

Copies to:

Be placed on Notice Boards in Traffic Office and Workshop

STM Secretary

RSM (for registering and filing)

Traffic Manager (for distribution to Traffic Staff)

SYDNEY TRAMWAY MUSEUM

Sequence of Applying and Releasing Brakes on Manual Lap Brake Tramcars

When stabling a “manual lap” brake tramcar, the following sequence must be followed:

1. Apply the air brake;
2. Chock the tram;
3. Release the air brake;
4. Apply the handbrake (NB this sequence ensures that the handbrake is holding the tram);
5. Apply the air brake.

When releasing the brakes on a “manual lap” brake tramcar at a terminus, the following sequence must be followed:

1. Apply the air brake;
2. Remove the chock from under the tram;
3. Release the air brake;
4. Carefully release the handbrake ensuring that the handle does not strike any object or person by taking the following actions:
 - a. Lean back;
 - b. Take the weight on the handbrake gooseneck handle or handbrake wheel (as in Ballarat 12 and 37);
 - c. Still leaning back, move your foot forward to disengage the pawl;
 - d. Take your hand smartly OFF the handbrake gooseneck handle or wheel; and
 - e. Do NOT move forward until the handbrake has been fully released.
5. However in some cases, the handbrake may not fully release when the gooseneck handle or wheel stops and the handbrake could still be partially on. A few extra turns of the handbrake shaft or wheel might be needed to fully release the handbrake. **BUT THE DRIVER MUST CONTINUE TO LEAN BACK UNTIL ALL TENSION IS RELEASED.**

The sign below has been applied to the O, P and U class trams.

**AIRBRAKE RELEASE→HANDBRAKE APPLY AIRBRAKE
RELEASE→HANDBRAKE RELEASE**

O & U CARS 26/10/2016 STM 6###

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