



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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March 7, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Ronald Ester  
Chief Safety Officer  
MBTA Safety Department  
185 Kneeland Street  
Boston, MA 02111

RE: Headlight Operation **Immediate Action Notice**

Dear Mr. Ester,

On March 6, 2023 a Department of Public Utilities track engineer and I were present with an instructor and section repair person to conduct an independent review of Red Line track conditions and the MBTA's compliance with the agency safety plan. DPU walked the Red Line section of track between Ashmont and Savin Hills on the southbound track. As a result of this inspection and the current version of the MBTA rule book the DPU identified a condition that requires an immediate corrective action.

MBTA Rule Book Section 7 H5 C:

“Motor persons must use all available resources including headlights to optimize his/her view of the right of way (ROW) and adjacent platforms and structures.”

Therefore, the DPU directs you to create a corrective action plan in accordance with 20 CMR 151.07 resolving the following items:

1. MBTA will issue a special order within 24 hours directing all motor persons operating MBTA equipment on the Red, Orange, Blue and Green line to utilize headlights at all times while operating equipment within a tunnel.
2. MBTA will reinforce within the special order the current MBTA rule book standards during operation as defined in section 7 H5.
3. MBTA will conduct a hazard risk analysis for use of headlights during full rail corridor operation and provide a report on their findings to DPU.

Please contact me if you have any questions,

Sincerely,



Robert N. Hanson  
Director Rail Transit Safety

cc:

J. Gonneville, MBTA  
E. Stoothoff, MBTA  
R. Ester, MBTA  
S. Culp, MBTA  
P. Roman, DPU  
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