



## Inspection Form

**Form WMSC-IR-1**

Washington Metrorail Safety Commission

**Agency/Department Information**

<b>Inspection Date</b>	YYYY	MM	DD	<b>Report Number</b>	20210326-WMATA-LBW-1		
	2021	03	26				
<b>Rail Agency Name</b>	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority			<b>Rail Agency Department</b>	Communications	<b>Sub-Department</b>	Operations
<b>Rail Agency Department Contact Information</b>	<b>Name</b>		<b>Email</b>		<b>Office Phone</b>		<b>Mobile Phone</b>
	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]
<b>Inspection Location</b>	West Falls Church Yard						

**Inspection Summary**

Inspection Activity #	1	2	3	4	5	6
<b>Activity Code</b>	RTRA-GEN-OBS					
<b>Inspection Units</b>	1					
<b>Inspection Subunits</b>	0					
<b>Defects (Number)</b>	19					
<b>Recommended Finding</b>	Yes					
<b>Remedial Action Required<sup>1</sup></b>	Yes					
<b>Recommended Reinspection</b>	Yes					

**Activity Summaries**

<b>Inspection Activity #</b>	1	<b>Inspection Subject</b>	Radio Communications – WFC Yard				<b>Activity Code</b>		RTRA	GEN	OBS
<b>Job Briefing Employee Name/Title</b>	WFC Interlocking Operator and WFC Operations Assistant Superintendent			<b>Accompanied Inspector?</b>	NA	<b>Out Brief Conducted</b>	Yes	<b>Time</b>	10:30	<b>Outside Shift</b>	Yes
<b>Related Reports</b>	E21042			<b>Related CAPS / Findings</b>							
<b>Related Rules, SOPs, Standards, or Other</b>	<b>Ref</b>		<b>Rule or SOP</b>		<b>Standard</b>		<b>Other / Title</b>		<b>Checklist Reference</b>		
<b>Inspection Location</b>	<b>Main Track</b>	<b>Yard</b>	<b>Station</b>	<b>OCC</b>	<b>RTA Facility</b>	<b>WMSC Office</b>	<b>Track Type</b>	<b>At-grade</b>	<b>Tunnel</b>	<b>Elevated</b>	<b>N/A</b>
		X						X	X		
<b>Line(s)</b>	E-99	<b>Track Number</b>		<b>Chain Marker and/or Station(s)</b>	<b>From</b>			<b>To</b>			
					NA			NA			
<b>Vehicles</b>	<b>Head Car Number</b>		<b>Number of Cars</b>		<b>Equipment</b>						
<b>Description</b>	The WMSC Inspector conducted a radio inspection of the West Fall Church Rail Yard. This inspection resulted from a SAFE incident report						<b>Number of Defects</b>		19		



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<p>E21042 where communications issues contributed to a Red Signal Violation and two similar incidents at the Greenbelt Rail Yard.</p> <p><b>E21042</b> is a red signal overrun in the West Falls Church (WFC) Yard on February 1, 2021. A non-revenue Polisher Class 2 Vehicle was departing WFC Yard to perform snow and ice-removal efforts when the unit overran K99-98 signal displaying a Red Aspect. At approximately 10:55:50 hrs., the Interlocking Operator instructed the Train Operator to hold at Signal K99-98 due to an incoming train. The T/O did not acknowledge the directions given by the I/O and proceeded. The Train Operator failed to hold at K99-98 as instructed by the Interlocking Operator. The I/O attempted to contact the Train Operator a second time at 10:56:04. At approximately 10:57:11 hrs., the Interlocking Operator attempted to contact the Train Operator a third time. At 10:57:36, the I/O informed the T/O of the Red Signal violation.</p> <p>This radio inspection was accomplished by performing radio checks with the WFC interlocking operator from various locations throughout the rail storage yard. The inspector also monitored radio communications of the interlocking operator and WMATA personnel in the performance of their duties. Prior to beginning the inspection, the WMSC inspectors conducted a briefing with the WFC interlocking operator and the Assistant Superintendent of Operations to discuss the inspection activities. The WMSC inspectors also conducted a third briefing with the shop supervisor prior to beginning the radio inspection within the service and inspection facility.</p> <p><b><u>Radio Check Locations</u></b>          Shop lead tracks 20 West          Shop lead track 16 West (car wash)          Inside S/I tracks 17 (blow pit)          Shop lead tracks 17 East          Shop lead tracks 21 East          K99-316 Red          K99-314 Red (communications going in and out)          K99 roadway crossing before the tunnel (Negative contact)              - Had to move location and repeat twice          K99-164 (communications going in and out)              - Had to repeat transmission 4 times          K99-182          K99-92 – Negative communication and to relocate for 2nd attempt. Dark lower red aspect on signal          Yard Lead 3 from the silver line – Negative radio checks in multiple locations          N91-44 - Negative radio checks 2 times          K99-100 - Negative radio check relocated and repeated with communications going in and out          YL3 @ 5+00 - Negative radio checks 2 times          K99-48 – T/O entering the yard could not hear the interlocking operator. Each party had to repeat multiple times to communicate          K99-96          Shop lead tracks 6 West - Negative radio checks 2 times          Storage track 6D - Negative radio checks 2 times          Storage track 6B          Storage track 10 - communications going in and out</p>		
	<b>Recommended Finding?</b>	No
	<b>Remedial Action Required?</b>	No
	<b>Recommended Reinspection?</b>	Yes



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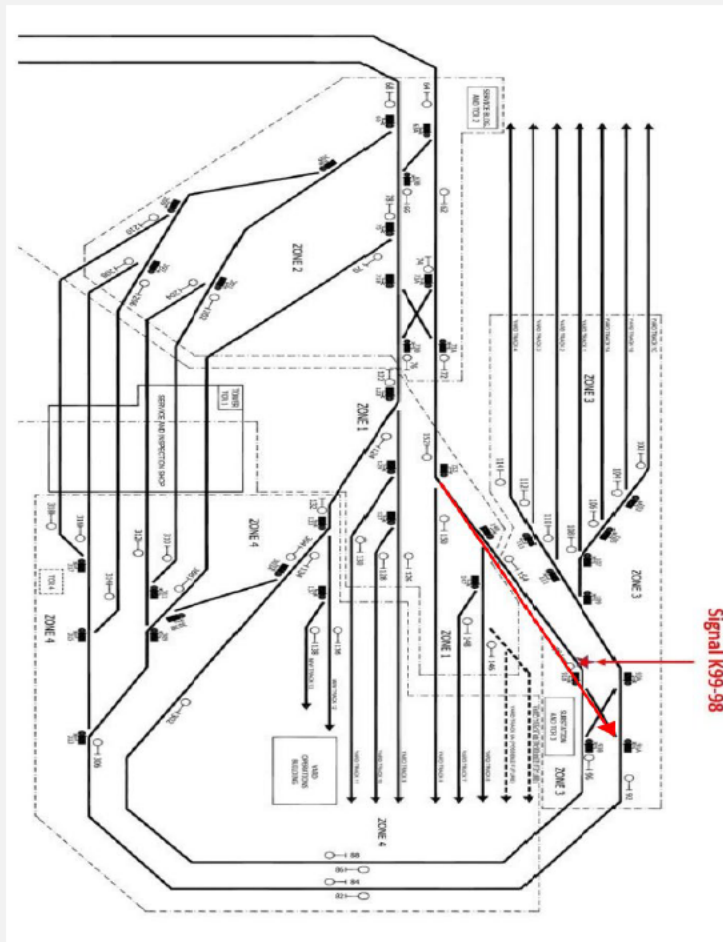
Shop lead tracks 18 West - **communications going in and out**  
K99-204 - **Dark lower red aspect on signal**

**West end storage tracks**

Storage track 4

Storage track 1B **Negative radio checks**

Storage track 1A **Negative radio checks**



An exit briefing was conducted with the Interlocking Operator and the Assistant Superintendent of Operations. Three Items identified which require immediate attention were identified. These items were covered during the exit briefing.

- K99-92 signal (lower Red Aspect was not illuminated)
- K99-204 signal (lower Red Aspect was not illuminated)
- (7) Fire extinguishers requiring inspection or replacement. One was due for replacement in 2013 (over 7 years) but was signed stating it was continuing to pass inspection.



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	<p>As clear and effective communications within the West Falls Church Yard are vital for the safety of personnel and equipment, the WMSC inspector is recommending additional inspections. The lack of consistent radio communications at the WFC Yard needs to be addressed immediately.</p>	
<b>Remedial Action</b>	N/A	

<sup>1</sup> The rail transit agency must provide WMSC with the necessary evidence (e.g. maintenance work order system records, photos, documentation, records, data, or other evidence) to close out the Remedial Action. Closeout of Remedial Actions may also be subject to ongoing WMSC verification inspections to ensure corrections are sufficient and effective.

<b>Inspector in Charge – Signature</b>		<b>Date</b> 03/29/21
<b>Inspector in Charge – Name</b> Bruce Walker	<b>Inspection Team</b> Bruce Walker	