



WMSC Inspection Report 20250411A

ISSUED 4/14/2025

Inspection Details

Title: New Carrollton Yard (D99) Car Wash

Location: New Carrollton Yard (D99)

Date of Inspection: 4/11/2025

Time of Inspection: 4:30am to 7:00 am

Unannounced

Risk-Based (TOC-OTR-15-006)

Functional Area: Life Safety

Hazard Rating: 2D

Overview

On April 11, 2024, a team of WMSC Inspectors went to the New Carrollton (D99) Rail Yard to inspect the operational status of the Vehicle Car Wash Warning System.

This is a risk-based inspection based on findings from the [Federal Transit Administration's Safety Directive 16-2](#). Directive 16-2 stated "WMATA must install a Train Movement Indication system in all car wash facilities." This corrective action was closed by the WMSC after Metrorail confirmed funding availability and provided the Task Order (FQ 17044-19-031) for the installation of the car wash warning systems at the six (6) identified locations (West Falls Church Rail Yard (K99), Alexandria Rail Yard (C99), Greenbelt Rail Yard (E99), Branch Avenue Rail Yard (F99), New Carrollton Rail Yard (D99), and Glenmont Yard Rail (B98) Facilities.

The WMSC Inspectors observed rail vehicle operators and Class 1 vehicle movement within the New Carrollton Rail Yard and through the Car Wash building. The WMSC Inspectors collected the lead car number and the number of cars in the consist that passed through the Car Wash facility during the 2.5-hour inspection period. This information is recorded in the table below:



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Lead Car Number	Number of Cars in Consist
7536	6
7242	6
7208	6
7644	6

Table Number One – New Carrollton Rail Yard Inspection Data

During this inspection, the WMSC Inspectors stopped the inspection to communicate an issue or hazard that posed an urgent safety concern to WMATA personnel. At the vehicle car wash facility, three of the four emergency exit doors (installed for WMATA staff to use for emergency egress inside the car wash building) were open so any person could enter the car wash through those doors at any time. One of the doors was noted as broken Because it would not close or lock in the closed position. Another door was noted to be wedged open. As per the WMSC Program Standard, the WMSC Inspectors stopped the inspection and immediately notified the WMATA Safety Officer on Duty of the door defects and the danger they posed. The Safety Officer on Duty conveyed this would be fixed as soon as possible. The WMSC Inspectors also called the emergency safety hotline and conveyed the safety concerns.

The WMSC inspection found a few defects in addition to the broken doors. The vehicle car wash facility warning system appeared to be installed, however, it was malfunctioning. The system was stuck in a warning condition with strobing lights although no rail vehicle was approaching or inside the facility. Additionally, the yellow warning lights located above two external entry doors were continually flashing without the presence of a rail vehicle. The combination of the warning lights continually flashing without the presence of a rail vehicle and the open exterior doors poses an imminent safety concern to personnel. Of historical relevance, on May 29, 2012, a Metrorail employee stepped into the path of a non-revenue 4 car rail vehicle in the car wash facility at Shady Grove Yard and was struck and critically injured. Following that accident, the Tri State Oversight Committee (TOC) and the FTA WMATA Safety Oversight (FWSO) required improvements to employee warning systems for Metrorail train car wash locations.

After concluding the inspection, the WMSC Inspectors conducted a debrief with the WMATA New Carrollton Interlocking Operator (IO) and the New Carrollton Operational Superintendent, in accordance with Program Standard Section 6.F.1.

Also on April 11, 2024, per the WMSC Program Standard section 6.F.2.a, the WMSC sent an email to WMATA identifying the immediate safety concern report of the open and broken doors at the New Carrollton Car Wash. The email was acknowledged by the Director of Quality Assurance, Internal Compliance and Oversight (Quality), and WMATA responded that “the relevant stakeholders



received a copy of WMSC's email." Additionally, WMATA notified the WMSC "...that mitigations are underway."

Defects and Corrective Actions

WMSC Inspections identify safety issues that may be classified as defects, findings, or recommendations. Findings and recommendations are defined by Program Standard Section 5.E.2 and 5.E.3 respectively. Ordinarily, issues identified in a WMSC inspection report are classified as defects. Defects are specific safety issues of non-conformance/non-compliance that are identified and that require remedial action.

This inspection did not identify any findings or recommendations and therefore does not require a WMSC Corrective Action Plan in accordance with Program Standard Section 5.E.4.

Defect Observations and Determinations

Defect 1

Three of the four emergency exit doors of the car wash were open, wedged open, or broken. The unsecured exterior carwash personnel doors at New Carrollton Rail Yard were previously identified as an imminent safety concern by the WMSC and documented in report 20240605-WMSC-DLB-2.

Hazard Rating: 2D

Photos:



Fig 1 – open wedged emergency door



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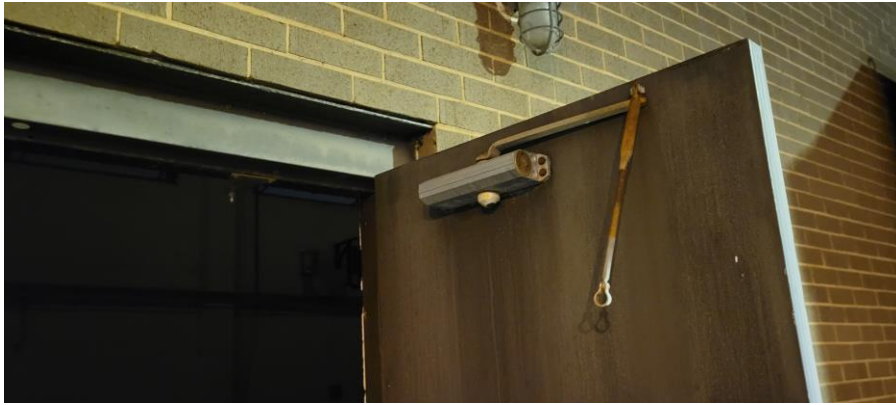


Fig 2 – open and broken emergency car wash door



Fig 3 – open and broken emergency door – wide angle



Fig 4 – wide angle of broken emergency car wash doors

Defect 2

The New Carrollton carwash facility train warning system was installed, but the system appeared to be malfunctioning. The system was going into a warning condition with strobing lights without a train in approach or inside the car wash facility. The yellow warning lights located above two (2) external personnel entry doors were continually flashing without the presence of a rail vehicle.

Hazard Rating: 2D

Photo

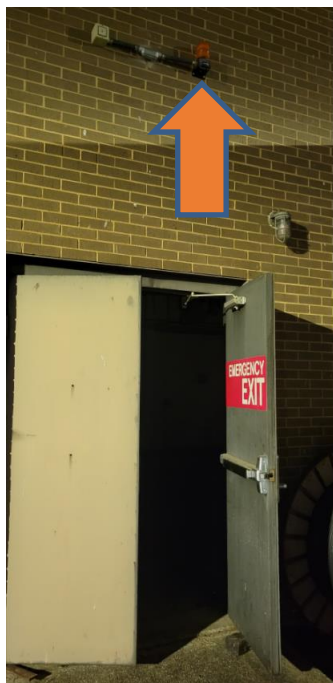


Fig 5 – Warning lights were in a constant warning state even without the presence of a vehicle approaching or in the wash.



Defect 3

Operational signs are posted for rail vehicle operators at both rail vehicle entrances to the carwash. Those signs are no longer legible.

Hazard: 3D

Photos



Fig 6 – unreadable operational sign at car wash facility

Next Steps

Please respond by **Thursday, April 17, 2025**, to acknowledge receipt and to convey responses to the WMSC regarding what, if any, actions will be or have been taken in response.