



WMSC Inspection Report 20250515

ISSUED 5/23/25

Inspection Details

Title: Silver Line (N) Emergency Trip Station (ETS) Box Inspection

Location: Ashburn to Reston Stations (Silver Line)

Date of Inspection: 5/15/25

Time of Inspection: 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Unannounced

Risk-Based (WMSC-22-C0169, WMSC-25-C0294, and SB 23-03 Emergency Trip Station Push Buttons Between Wiehle-Reston East and Ashburn Stations)

Functional Area: Life Safety

Hazard Rating: 1D

Overview

On May 15, 2025, a WMSC Inspector conducted an inspection of the Emergency Trip Station (ETS) boxes of the platform stations of the second phase of the Silver Line extension. This was a risk-based inspection based on WMSC-22-C0169 and WMSC-25-C0294. Additionally, the Inspector was observing adherence to Safety Bulletin (SB 23-03), "Emergency Trip Station Push Buttons Between Wiehle-Reston East and Ashburn Station," that found a "...defect has been identified in the new ETS boxes between Wiehle-Reston East and Ashburn stations. The push buttons (mushrooms) can rotate out of alignment, preventing the user from depressing the button to de-energize third rail power." (SB 23-03)

After concluding the inspection, the WMSC Inspector sent an email debrief on May 20, 2025, to the WMATA_WMSCRequests email group, in accordance with Program Standard Section 6.F.1. Specifically, the WMSC made WMATA aware of the observed short antennae on the radios, which although not a focus of this inspection, were observed during the inspection.



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

Inspector checked the ETS boxes on the station platforms of the Silver Line from Ashburn to Reston Stations (N12, N11, N09, N08, and N07). The Inspector noted all ETS boxes were closed properly. The Inspector then opened the ETS boxes and checked for Power Map, Phone Number, and overall cleanliness. The ETS box phone lines were checked and confirmed for dial tone. Blue lights were working and visible on all ETS boxes. Additionally, during a train riding inspection, the Inspector found no failures of the ETS Blue lights within the right-of-way; all the lights were working properly. Therefore, no defects were found for the ETS boxes between Ashburn and Reston Stations.

However, during this ETS inspection, the Inspector observed several WMATA hand-held radios had short antennae in violation of Safety Bulletin SB-23-09-C. Specifically, at least three operations personnel, and one a supervisor, had short antennas affixed to their APX 8000 radio. A train operator, rail supervisor, and a station manager were using the type of radio the Inspector noted with the short antennae. On May 20, 2025, the Inspector sent an email to WMATA_WMSCRequests, Erika Briggs and Andrea Bell, concerning this matter.

Next, while speaking with a station manager, the Inspector observed rust marks on the ceiling of the Ashburn kiosk. Further conversation with the station manager revealed that condensation forms on the ceilings of several of the N line stations. According to the station manager, in some cases the condensation drips onto the work areas. Station managers are concerned about the probability of mold growing in the duct work and lack of filter changes in the HVAC system.

Next Steps

Please respond **by Tuesday, May 27, 2025**, to acknowledge receipt and to convey responses to the WMSC regarding what, if any, actions will be or have been taken in response.