



BRC GENERAL NOTICE

#2025 - 004

Effective 0001 Friday October 10th, 2025

To: ALL Employees

Subject: New "Skate Retarders" East Classification Yard

New Skate Retarders have been installed in the Clearing East Classification Yard, BRC Signal department has been in the process of powering the new Skate Retarders and connecting them to the Train Yard Tech (TYT) System for use. The new Skate Retarders can be manually applied and released by the West Hump Foreman. The retarding force applied to rail cars is done differently than past Inert Retarders, the new Skate Retarders apply retarding force to the inside of both wheels on an axle in an outward direction.

The New Skate Retarders are in service from tracks 00 – 23 East Classification, the signal department will continue powering up additional Skate Retarders moving southward across the East Classification Yard.

Currently the older Inert Retarders are still in place and active, until further instructed, the use of skates will also be required just as in the past until the new "Skate Retarders" can be tested and it is determined that skates will no longer be required.

Currently employees out in the field will request track protection as they have in the past and in compliance with GCOR 7.13. When a Block has been established on a track the Skate Retarder will not open, unless the Block is established for "Couple & Pull" reason. Transportation employees requesting track protection for coupling and pulling equipment are required to continually observe the equipment on the track requested as the Skate Retarder will now be in an open (released) state.

Skate Retarder Operation:

The current position of the Skate Retarder is indicated on the far-right side of the TYT screen next to the track number, the color of the square box at the end of the track indicates the following,

- **Green** indicates the Skate Retarder is **closed**
- **Red** indicates the Skate Retarder is **open**

To open the Skate Retarder Control Screen, click the box on the far-right side of the TYT screen at the end of the track.

Manual Control

Manual Control can be performed by West Hump Foreman to control Skate Retarders. Control of the Skate Retarders is done through a toggle command. Skate Retarders will close or open when they are toggled.

To change the position of a Skate Retarder from the current position:

- **Open the Skate Control Screen**
- **Select the Track**
- **Click the Toggle button**

The Skate Retarder position will be changed from its current position.

Applying Couple and Pull Blocks

A track that is blocked out with the "Couple & Pull" reason will open the Skate Retarder automatically when the block is accepted by the West Hump Foreman. The box at the far right of the track on the TYT screen will flash red when Skate Retarder is being opened, when the box stays a solid red color the Skate Retarder is open.

To apply a Couple & Pull Block:

- **Open the Block Screen**
- **Select the track to be blocked**
- **Select the "Couple & Pull" reason**
- **Request Block**

After the Block is accepted, the Skate Retarder will automatically be requested to open.

Releasing Couple and Pull Blocks

A track that has been blocked with the "Couple & Pull" reason will close the Skate Retarder automatically when the block is removed by the West Hump Foreman. The box at the far right of the track on the TYT screen will flash green when Skate Retarder is being closed, when the box stays a solid green color the Skate Retarder is closed.

To remove a Couple & Pull Block:

- **Open the Block Screen**
- **Select the Block Slot to be removed that has the "Couple & Pull" reason**
- **Request Unblock**

After the Unblock is accepted, the Skate Retarder will automatically be requested to be closed.

When unblocking a track or when employee in the field request the retarder to be placed in an open position, a job briefing must take place between the West Hump Foreman and person requesting track discussing the location of equipment on the track, if equipment is seen to be close to the clearance at the east end of the track extra precautions must be taken prior to allowing the Skate Retarder to be opened to prevent movement of the equipment.

Run Out Alarm Description

The Run Out Alarm will display on a track by a red line to the right of the Skate Retarder status box on the TYT screen. The Run Out Input, which triggers the alarm, will indicate on a track by displaying a solid red line to the far right of the TYT Screen.

The Run Out Alarm will protect the track until either the track is blocked, Skate Protections Overridden, or the Alarm is Acknowledged and Cleared.

Note: The Run Out Alarm will only trigger when the track is unblocked (live).

Acknowledging the Runout Alarm

An active Run Out Alarm can be Acknowledged by the operator. The alarm will only be able to be cleared once the Run Out Input returns to the "off state".

To Acknowledge the Alarm:

- **Right Click on the flashing red box above the Skate Retarder on the track with an active Run Out Alarm**
- **Click on the "Acknowledge Run Out" button**

The Alarm will be acknowledged. If the Run Out Input is off at the time the operator acknowledges the alarm, the Run Out Alarm will be Cleared.

Chris Gorski

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BRC General Notices in Effect:

Year of Issuance	Numbers
2025	002, 003, 004
2024	012