

IROR Rule 21 – Hand Operated Switches

21.2 Except while being turned, each switch must be secured with an approved device. When a switch has been turned, the points must be examined and the target, light or reflector, if any, observed to ensure that the switch is properly lined for the route to be used.

CROR Rule 104 – Hand Operated Switches – General

(b) Except while being turned, each switch must be secured with an approved device. When a switch has been turned, the points must be examined and the target, reflector or light, if any, observed to ensure that the switch is properly lined for the route to be used.

SITUATION: You're required to make multiple switching moves between two tracks within your facility. This involves handling a hand operated switch, equipped with a target.

QUESTION: Are you required to observe the switch points and target after each time the switch has been turned?

ANSWER: Yes. The switch points and target must be observed to ensure that it has been properly lined for route to be used.

INTERPRETATION: Regardless of how many times a switch handled by the same crew, the switch points and target must always be observed each time that the switch has been turned.

SUMMARY: Hand operated switches are a critical component to rail yard infrastructure and switching operations. Although simple to operate, misuse can lead to equipment damage and injury. Employees must operate all switches to regulation requirements and company standards contained in general operating instructions.

