

WEST SOMERSET RAILWAY PLC



INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEERS

DEPARTMENT: Signalmen (we welcome applications from men or women)

INTRODUCTION: Signalmen are essential to the operation of the railway: without them no trains could operate. To run a passenger train the entire length of the line from Minehead to Bishops Lydeard four signal boxes need to be open: and to operate the timetabled service between May and September, and at other peak times such as Easter, all five of the Railway's signal boxes must be open. The post of signalman is a Safety Critical position within the railway operation.

SIGNALLING DUTIES: The signalman's primary responsibility is ensuring the safe passage of trains. There is much more to this than merely pulling some levers to change the points and signals. The duties also involve:
The issue of single line tokens (no driver is permitted to enter the single line between two boxes unless he is in possession of the appropriate token).
Recording the times that messages (usually conveyed by bell codes) are exchanged with adjacent boxes, that tokens are withdrawn from the issuing machine, and that trains arrive and depart.
Complying with the instructions given, in the rulebook and elsewhere, to carry out the above tasks.

GENERAL DUTIES: Compliance with any instructions given (verbally or in writing), and responsibility for the cleanliness of the signal box,

REQUIREMENTS: The minimum age is 18. Due to the need to obtain a reasonable return for the training effort invested trainees over the age of 70 are not usually accepted.

It is necessary for all candidates to pass a medical fitness examination (arranged by the Company) which includes an eyesight (colour vision) test.

Trainees must undertake a Personal Track Safety Course (arranged by the Company).

Candidates should preferably live within 40 miles, or one hour's journey time, of the railway and must have their own transport.

We are particularly interested in candidates who will be available mid week or in the evenings.

Candidates should be available for a minimum of 12 signalling turns (normally days) per year – this number is currently under review - and be prepared to attend at least one compulsory refresher training day (usually held on a Saturday or Sunday) per year. They must be reasonably articulate and physically fit – some point or signal levers can require quite an effort to move.

Currently training consists of a 6 day course in a classroom followed by about 12 days in a signal box (all normally within a maximum of one season), followed by examination.

NOTE: The number of training places available at any one time is restricted and there can be a waiting list. You are welcome to register your interest in becoming a

volunteer at any time, but you should note that there are normally only two intakes to the training course per year, generally in December and June.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Please telephone Mel Hillman, New Volunteer Co-ordinator, on 01823 433856

HOW TO APPLY: By telephoning the New Volunteer Co-ordinator on 01823 433856 leaving your name and address, or

By downloading the on-line application form and posting to the address on the form, or

Completing the form on-line and emailing it to volunteers@wsrail.net

On receipt the New Volunteer Co-ordinator will contact you and make arrangements for an induction, etc. Assuming that you wish to proceed, your details will then be forwarded to the Signalling Inspectorate.