



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Jamey Tesler, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Steve Poftak, General Manager



DESIGN DIRECTIVE

To: Distribution

From: Joseph A. Pavao Jr., P.E. *JAP*
Acting Chief Engineer

Date: October 20, 2022

RE: Rail Weld Clearances to Bond Wire Connections and Holes

The leading edge of any bond wire connections or holes of any type shall not be within 6-inches of the centerline of a completed weld of any type, regardless of the order of installation.

If present, cut rail a minimum of 9-inches back of a burned hole or a bond wire connection and 1-inch back of a drilled hole. Cut rails square and clean using a rail saw.

In the event that conditions warrant deviation from this directive, a design waiver signed by the Chief Engineer and the department owning the scope of work will be required.

Note that these requirements exceed the current AREMA requirement of a 4-inch minimum clearance.