1 General

1.1 Introduction and Intended Use (Informative)

This Recommended Practice provides the definition for the various abbreviations used in NMRA drawings and various documents. This information was originally available in NMRA Data Sheet D1e and was reclassified a Recommended Practice in 1959.

1.2 References

This Recommended Practice should be interpreted in the context of the following NMRA Standards, Technical Notes, and Technical Information.

2 Abbreviations

- A -		Assembly	ASSY	Breaker	BKR
Abbreviate	ABBR	Assistant	ASST	Brown	BRN
Air Circuit Breaker	ACB	Association	ASSN	Brown & Sharpe	B&S
Alarm	ALM	Attach	ATT	Brush	BR
Alternating Current	AC	Audible	AUD	Button	BUT
Amber	AMB	Audio Frequency	AF	Buzzer	BUZ
American Wire Gage	AWG	Authorized	AUTH	- C -	
Ammeter	AM	Automatic	AUTO	Cable	CA
Ampere	AMP	Automatic Train Control	ATC	Call On	CO
Ampere Hour	AMP HR	Auxiliary	AUX	Candle Power	CP
Ampere Turn	AT	Avenue	AVE	Capacitor	CAP
Amplifier	AMPL	- B -		Capacity	CAP
Annunciator	ANN	Back Connected	BC	Carload	CL
Antenna	ANT	Back Feed	BF	Cast Iron	CI
Apartment	APT	Balance	BAL	Cement	CEM
Apparatus	APP	Ball Bearing	BB	Center	CTR
Approach Lighting	APL	Barrel	BBL	Center Line	℄
Approved	APPD	Basement	BSMT	Centimeter	CM
Approximate	APPROX	Battery	BAT	Centralized Traffic Control	CTC
Area	A	Bill of Material	B/M	Circuit	CKT
Area Drain	AD	Black	BLK	Circuit Breaker	CB
Armature	ARM	Block	BLK	Clear	CLR
Asbestos	ASB	Blue	BLU	Clockwise	CW
Assemble	ASSEM	Board	BD	Common	COM

Common Battery	CB
Commutator	COMM
Condenser	COND
Conductor	COND
Conductor Multiple	3/C
Conduit	CND
Connect (ion)	CONN
Contact	CONT
Container	CONTR
Continue	CONT
Control (ler)	CONT
Coupling	CPLG
Cross (ing)	X
Cross Arm	X-ARM
Cross Connection	X-CONN
Crossover	X-O
Crystal	XTAL
Current	CUR
Cut Out	CO
Cycle	CY
Cycles/Second	CPS
- D -	
Decalcomania	DECAL
Decimal	DEC
Department	DEPT
Diagram	DIAG
Diameter	DIA
Direct Current	DC
Distance	DIST
Down	DN
Double Pole Switch	DPSW
Double Pole Double Throw	DPDT
Double Pale Single Throw	DPST
- E -	
Each	EA
East	E
Electric	ELEC
Emergency	EMER
Engine	ENG
Engine House	EH
Engineer	ENGR
Entrance	ENT

- F -	
Feed Water	FW
Feet/Minute	FPM
Feet/Second	FPS
Field	FLD
Figure	FIG
Filament	FIL
Filter	FLT
Fluorescent	FLUOR
Foot	' or FT
Foot Pounds	'# or FT LB
Frame	FR
Freight	FRT
Frequency	FREQ
Fresh Water	FW
Front	FR
Fuel	F
Fuel Oil	FO
- G -	
Gage or Gauge	GA
Gallon	GAL
Gallons/Hour	GPH
General	GENL
Generator	GEN
Glass	GL
Grade	GR
Grade Line	GL
Gravel	GVL
Gravity	G
Green	GRN
Ground	GND
- H -	
Hand Control	HC
Hand Generator	HG
Height	HGT
High Frequency	HF
High Voltage	HV
Highway	HWY
Home	H
Horsepower	HP
- I -	
Identity	IDENT

Ignition	IGN
Inch	" or IN
Inches/Second	IPS
Inductance	I
Inside Diameter	ID
Instrument	INST
Insulate	INS
Interlock	INTLK
Inverse	INV
- J -	
Jack	JK
Joint	JT
Journal	JNL
Junction	JCT
Junction Box	JB
- K -	
Key	K
Kilo	K
Kilocycle	KC
Kilogram	KG
Kilometer	KM
Kilovolt	KV
Kilowatt	KW
Thousand	K
- L -	
Left	L
Length	LG
Light	LT
Limit Switch	LS
Line	LN
Lock	LK
Long	LG
Low Voltage	LV
Inductance	L
Pound	LB
- M -	
Magnet	MAG
Manufacture	MFR
Maximum	MAX
Meter (instrument or measurement)	M
Miles	MI

Miles/Hour	MPH	Part	PT	Railway	RY
Milliampere	MA	Passenger	PSGR	Reactor	REAC
Milligram	MG	Permanent Magnet	PM	Receiver	REC
Millimeter	MM	Perpendicular	⊥ or PERP	Receptacle	RECP
Million (See Note)	M	Pickup	PU	Rectifier	RECT
Minimum	MIN	Pilot	PLT	RED	RED
Minute	' or MIN	Pint	PT	Refrigerate	REFR
Model	MOD	Plate	PL	Regulator	REG
Motor	MOT	Plug	PL	Relay	REL
Motor Generator	MG	Point	PT	Release	REL
Multiple	MULT	Point of Comp. Curve	PCC	Remote Control	RC
Multiple Contact	MC	Point of Curve	PC	Repeating	RPTG
Noon (Mid-day)	M	Point of Frog	PF	Resistance	RES
- N -		Point of Intersection	PI	Resistor	RES
Negative	- or NEG	Point of Reverse Curve	PRC	Reverse	REV
Network	NET	Point of Spiral Tangent	PST	Revolution	REV
Neutral	NEUT	Point of Switch	PS	Revolutions/Minute	RPM
Noon	M	Point of Tangent	PT	Revolutions/Second	RPS
Normal	NOR	Polar (ized)	POL	Rheostat	RHEO
North	N	Pole	P	Right	RT
Not to Scale	NTS	Positive	+ or POS	Right Hand	RH
Number	# or NO.	Potential	POT	Right of Way	R/W
- O -		Potentiometer	POT	Ringing	RING.
Obsolete	OBS	Pound	LB	Road	RD
Ohm	OHM	Pounds/Square Inch	PSI	Rotary	ROT.
Operate	OPR	Power	PWR	Route	RTE
Orange	ORN	Power Amplifter	PA	- S -	
Original	ORIG	Power Factor	PF	Schedule	SCH
Oscillate	OSC	Power House	PH	Schematic	SCHEM
Ounce	OZ	Primary	PRI	Screw	SCR
Outgoing	OUT.	Proposed	PROP	Second (ary)	SEC
Outlet	OUT.	Protection	PROT	Section	SECT
Output	OUT.	Public Address	PA	Segment	SEG
Outside Diameter	OD	Push Button	PB	Select	SEL
Outside Radius	OR	- Q -		Selsyn	SELS
Overload	OVLD	Quality	QUAL	Sequence	SEQ
Overvoltage	OVV	Quantity	QTY	Series	SER
- P -		Quart	QT	Shop Order	SO
Page	PG	- R -		Shunt	SH
Pair	PR	Radio Frequency	RF	Siding	SDG
Panel	PNL	Radius	R	Signal	SIG
Parallel	|| or PAR.	Railroad	RR	Single	S

Sketch	SK
Slow-Release	SR
Solder	SLD
Solenoid	SOL
South	S
Spare	SP
Speaker	SPKR
Special	SPL
Specification	SPEC
Speed	SP
Spring	SPG
Square	SQ
Standard	STD
Station	STA
Stock	STK
Straight	STR
Street	ST
Substation	SUB STA
Superimposed Current	SC
Superintendent	SUPT
Supplement	SUPP
Switch	SW
Single Pole	SPSW
Single Pole Single Throw	SPSTSW
Single Pole Double Throw	SPDTSW
Double Pole	DPSW
Double Pole Single Throw	DPSTSW
Double Pole Double Throw	DPDTSW
Triple Pole	3PSW
Triple Pole Single Throw	3PSTSW
Triple Pole Double Throw	3PDTSW
Switchboard	SWBD
Symbol	SYM
System	SYS

- T -

Tabulate	TAB
Telegraph	TLG
Telephone	TEL
Terminal	TERM
Thousand (See Note)	K
Throttle	THROT
Through	THRU
Ticket	TKT
Time	T
Toggle	TGL
Tower	TWR
Track	TK
Train	TRN
Transfer	TRANS
Transformer	TRANS
Transmitter	XMTR
Transportation	TPN
Trip Coil	TC
Triple Pole Switch	SPSW
Triple Pole Single Throw	SPSTSW
Triple Pole Double Throw	3PDTSW
Trunk	TRK
Turn Table	TT

- U -

Ultra High Frequency	UHF
Universal	UNIV
Up	UP

- V -

Vacuum	VAC
Vacuum Tube	VT
Variable	VAR
Versus	VS
Vertical	VERT
Vibrate	VIB
Volt	V
Voltage Relay	VR
Voltampere	VA
Voltmeter	VM
Volume	VOL

- W -

Warehouse	WHSE
Water Plug	WP
Water Tank	WT
Water Tower	WT
Watt	W
Watt Hour	WHR
Watt Hour Meter	WHM
Watt Meter	WM
Week	WK
Weight	WT
West	W
Wheelbase	WB
White	WHT
Width	W
Wire	W
Wire Way	WW

- Y -

Yard	YD
Year	YR
Yellow	YEL

NOTE: "K" will be the new symbol for 1000. It is derived from Kilo; ie., Kilovolt equal 1000 volts. Example:

50 KV equals 50 thousand volts.

"M" will be new symbol for million. It is derived from Mega; i.e., Mega-cycle equal l,000,000 cycles. Example:

50 MC equals 50 million cycles.

3 Document History

Date	Description
1/1959	Data Sheet D1e dated 3/1950 upgraded to a Recommended Practice
4/20/2021	RP upgraded to current format

Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning NMRA Standards Documents

The Standards (S), Recommended Practices (RP), Technical Note (TN), and Technical Information (TI) documents of the National Model Railroad Association ("NMRA Standards documents") are made available for use subject to important notices and legal disclaimers. These notices and disclaimers, or a reference to this page, appear in all standards and may be found under the heading "Important Notices and Disclaimers Concerning NMRA Standards Documents."

Notice and Disclaimer of Liability Concerning the Use of NMRA Standards Documents

NMRA Standards documents are developed within the Standards and Conformance Department of the NMRA in association with certain Working Groups, members, and representatives of manufacturers and sellers. NMRA develops its standards through a consensus development process, which brings together volunteers representing varied viewpoints and interests to achieve the final product. NMRA Standards documents are developed by volunteers with modeling, railroading, engineering, and industry-based expertise. Volunteers are not necessarily members of NMRA, and participate without compensation from NMRA.

NMRA does not warrant or represent the accuracy or completeness of the material contained in NMRA Standards documents, and expressly disclaims all warranties (express, implied and statutory) not included in this or any other document relating to the standard or recommended practice, including, but not limited to, the warranties of: merchantability; fitness for a particular purpose; non-infringement; and quality, accuracy, effectiveness, currency, or completeness of material. In addition, NMRA disclaims any and all conditions relating to results and workmanlike effort. In addition, NMRA does not warrant or represent that the use of the material contained in NMRA Standards documents is free from patent infringement. NMRA Standards documents are supplied "AS IS" and "WITH ALL FAULTS."

Use of NMRA Standards documents is wholly voluntary. The existence of an NMRA Standard or Recommended Practice does not imply that there are no other ways to produce, test, measure, purchase, market, or provide other goods and services related to the scope of the NMRA Standards documents. Furthermore, the viewpoint expressed at the time that NMRA approves or issues a Standard or Recommended Practice is subject to change brought about through developments in the state of the art and comments received from users of NMRA Standards documents.

In publishing and making its standards available, NMRA is not suggesting or rendering professional or other services for, or on behalf of, any person or entity, nor is NMRA undertaking to perform any duty owed by any other person or entity to another. Any person utilizing any NMRA Standards document, should rely upon their own independent judgment in the exercise of reasonable care in any given circumstances or, as appropriate, seek the advice of a competent professional in determining the appropriateness of a given NMRA Standards document.

IN NO EVENT SHALL NMRA BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, SPECIAL, EXEMPLARY, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO: THE NEED TO PROCURE SUBSTITUTE GOODS OR SERVICES; LOSS OF USE, DATA, OR PROFITS; OR BUSINESS INTERRUPTION) HOWEVER CAUSED AND ON ANY THEORY OF LIABILITY, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, STRICT LIABILITY, OR TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE) ARISING IN ANY WAY OUT OF THE PUBLICATION, USE OF, OR RELIANCE UPON ANY STANDARD OR RECOMMENDED PRACTICE, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGE AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER SUCH DAMAGE WAS FORESEEABLE.

Translations

NMRA's development of NMRA Standards documents involves the review of documents in English only. In the event that an NMRA Standards document is translated, only the English version published by NMRA is the approved NMRA Standards document.

Official Statements

A statement, written or oral, that is not processed in accordance with NMRA policies for distribution of NMRA communications, or approved by the Board of Directors, an officer or committee chairperson, shall not be considered or inferred to be the official position of NMRA or any of its committees and shall not be considered to be, nor be relied upon as, a formal position of NMRA.

Comments on Standards

Comments for revision of NMRA Standards documents are welcome from any interested party, regardless of membership. However, **NMRA does not provide interpretations, consulting information, or advice pertaining to NMRA Standards documents.**

Suggestions for changes in documents should be in the form of a proposed change of text, together with appropriate supporting comments. Since NMRA standards represent a consensus of concerned interests, it is important that any responses to comments and questions also receive the concurrence of a balance of interests. For this reason, NMRA, its departments, Working Groups or committees cannot provide an instant response to comments, or questions except in those cases where the matter has previously been addressed. For the same reason, NMRA does not respond to interpretation requests. Any person who would like to participate in evaluating comments or in revisions to NMRA Standards documents may request participation in the relevant NMRA working group.

Laws & Regulations

Users of NMRA Standards documents should consult all applicable laws and regulations. Compliance with the provisions of any NMRA Standards document does not constitute compliance to any applicable regulatory requirements. Implementers of the standard are responsible for observing or referring to the applicable regulatory requirements. NMRA does not, by the publication of NMRA Standards documents, intend to urge action that is not in compliance with applicable laws, and NMRA Standards documents may not be construed as doing so.

Copyrights

NMRA Standards documents are copyrighted by NMRA under US and international copyright laws. They are made available by NMRA and are adopted for a wide variety of both public and private uses. These include both use, by reference, in laws and regulations, and use in private self-regulation, standardization, and the promotion of modeling, structural and engineering practices and methods. By making NMRA Standards documents available for use and adoption by public authorities and private users, NMRA does not waive any rights in copyright to the NMRA Standards documents.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NMRA Standards documents do not guarantee or ensure safety, security, health, or environmental protection, or ensure against interference with or from other systems, devices or networks. NMRA Standards documents development activities consider research and information presented to the standards development group in developing any safety recommendations. Other information about safety practices, changes in technology or technology implementation, or impact by peripheral systems also may be pertinent to safety considerations during implementation of the standard. Implementers and users of NMRA Standards documents are responsible for determining and complying with all appropriate safety, security, environmental, health, and interference protection practices and all applicable laws and regulations.