US 20120176217A1

(19) United States

(12) Patent Application Publication

TAMARIBUCHI et al.

(10) Pub. No.: US 2012/0176217 A1

(43) Pub. Date: Jul. 12, 2012

(54) CONTROL SYSTEM, TERMINAL DEVICE FOR MAINTENANCE WORKER AND CONTROL DEVICE

(76) Inventors: **Hiroyuki TAMARIBUCHI**, Tokyo (JP); **Yuto Kono**, Tokyo (JP)

(21) Appl. No.: **13/237,167**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 20, 2011**

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jan. 11, 2011 (JP) ..... 2011-002943

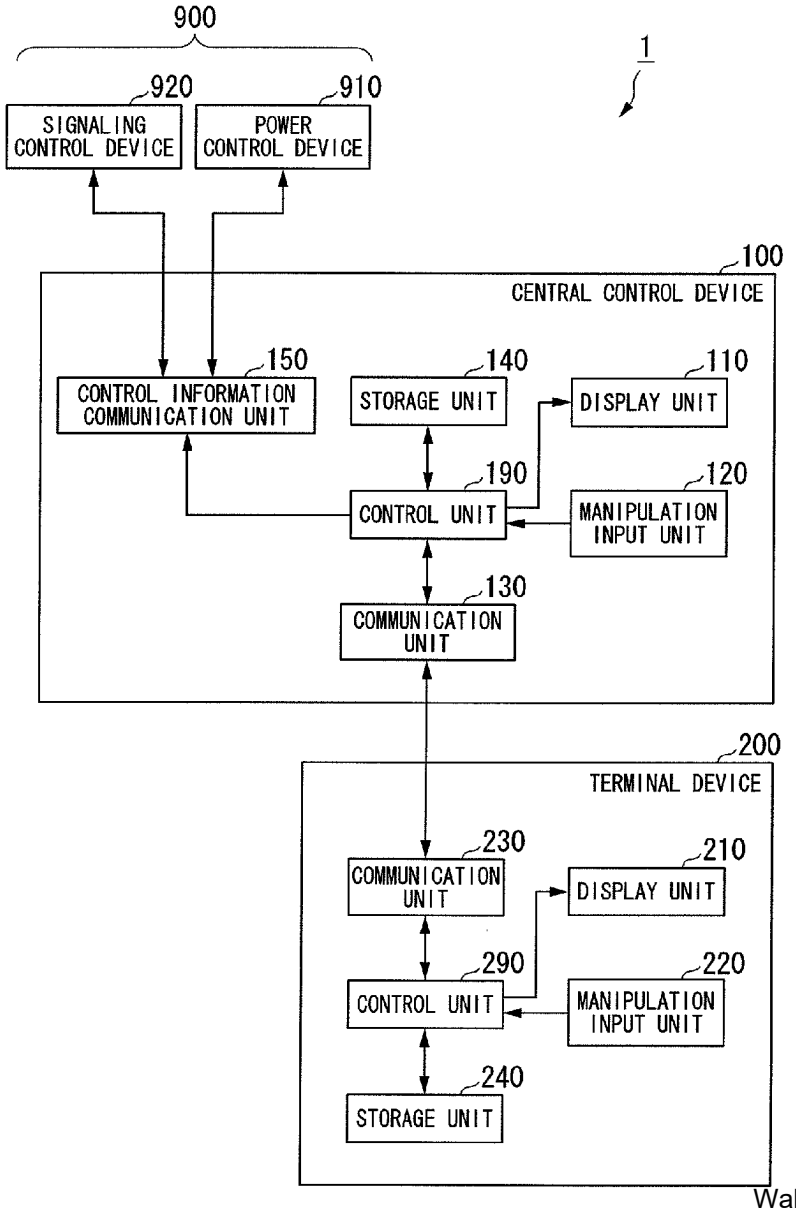
**Publication Classification**

(51) **Int. Cl.**
*G05B 19/00* (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.** ..... **340/5.7**

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A terminal device carried by a maintenance worker transmits, to a central control device, a request to maintain a first state in which a central control device controls a target device so that maintenance work is safely performed. The central control device transitions to a PIN lock state in which the first state is maintained, according to this request.




Wabtec v. Railware, Inc.
IPR2026-00133
EX2024 - 0001

FIG. 1

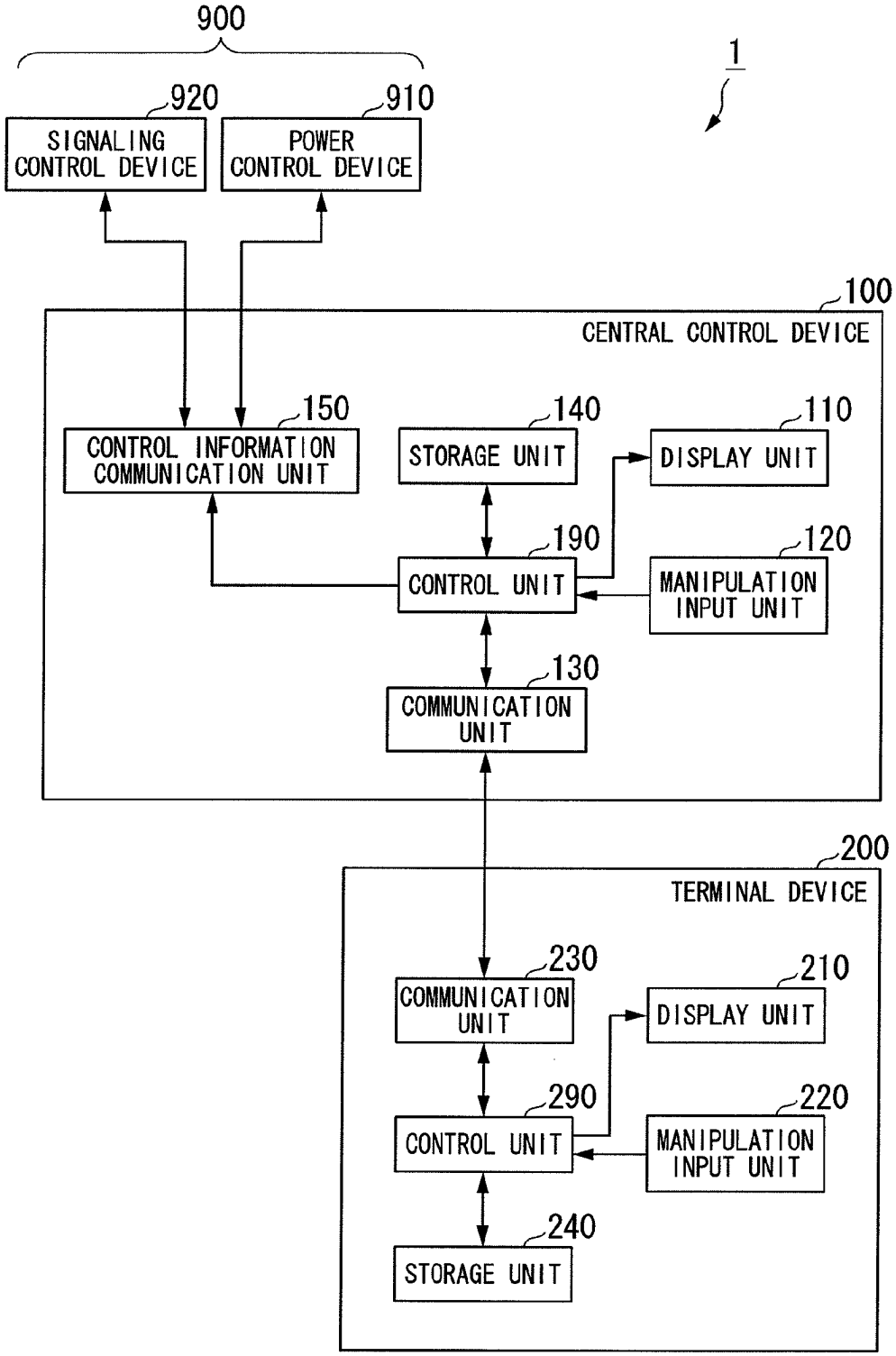

900
920
SIGNALING CONTROL DEVICE
910
POWER CONTROL DEVICE
1
100
CENTRAL CONTROL DEVICE
150
CONTROL INFORMATION COMMUNICATION UNIT
140
STORAGE UNIT
110
DISPLAY UNIT
190
CONTROL UNIT
120
MANIPULATION INPUT UNIT
130
COMMUNICATION UNIT
200
TERMINAL DEVICE
230
COMMUNICATION UNIT
210
DISPLAY UNIT
290
CONTROL UNIT
220
MANIPULATION INPUT UNIT
240
STORAGE UNIT

FIG. 2

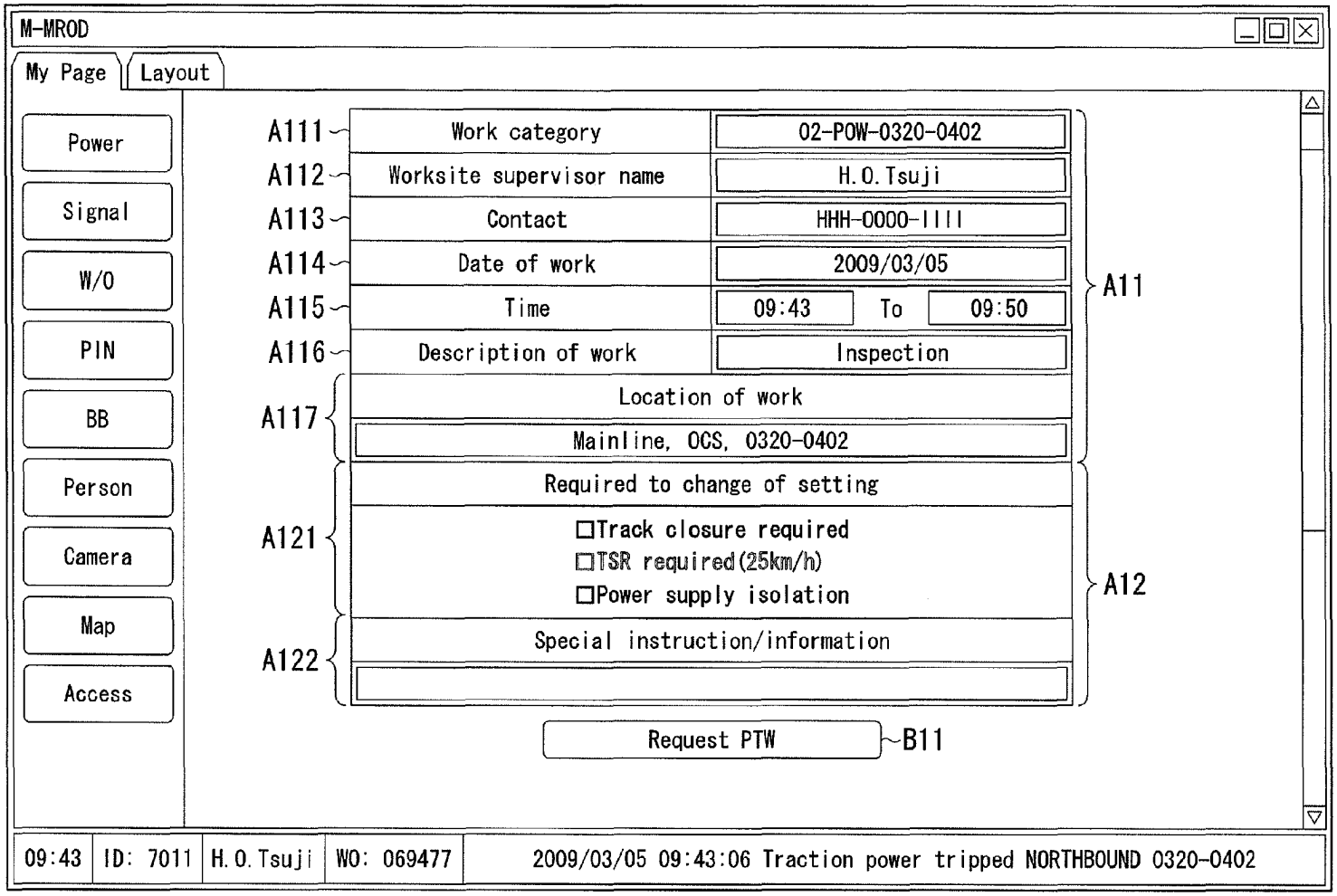

M-MROD
My Page
Layout
Power
Signal
W/O
PIN
BB
Person
Camera
Map
Access
A111
Work category
02-POW-0320-0402
A112
Worksite supervisor name
H.O.Tsuji
A113
Contact
HHH-0000-IIII
A114
Date of work
2009/03/05
A115
Time
09:43
To
09:50
A116
Description of work
Inspection
A11
A117
Location of work
Mainline, OCS, 0320-0402
A121
Required to change of setting
☐Track closure required
☐TSR required(25km/h)
☐Power supply isolation
A12
A122
Special instruction/information
Request PTW
B11
09:43
ID: 7011
H.O.Tsuji
WO: 069477
2009/03/05 09:43:06 Traction power tripped NORTHBOUND 0320-0402

FIG. 3

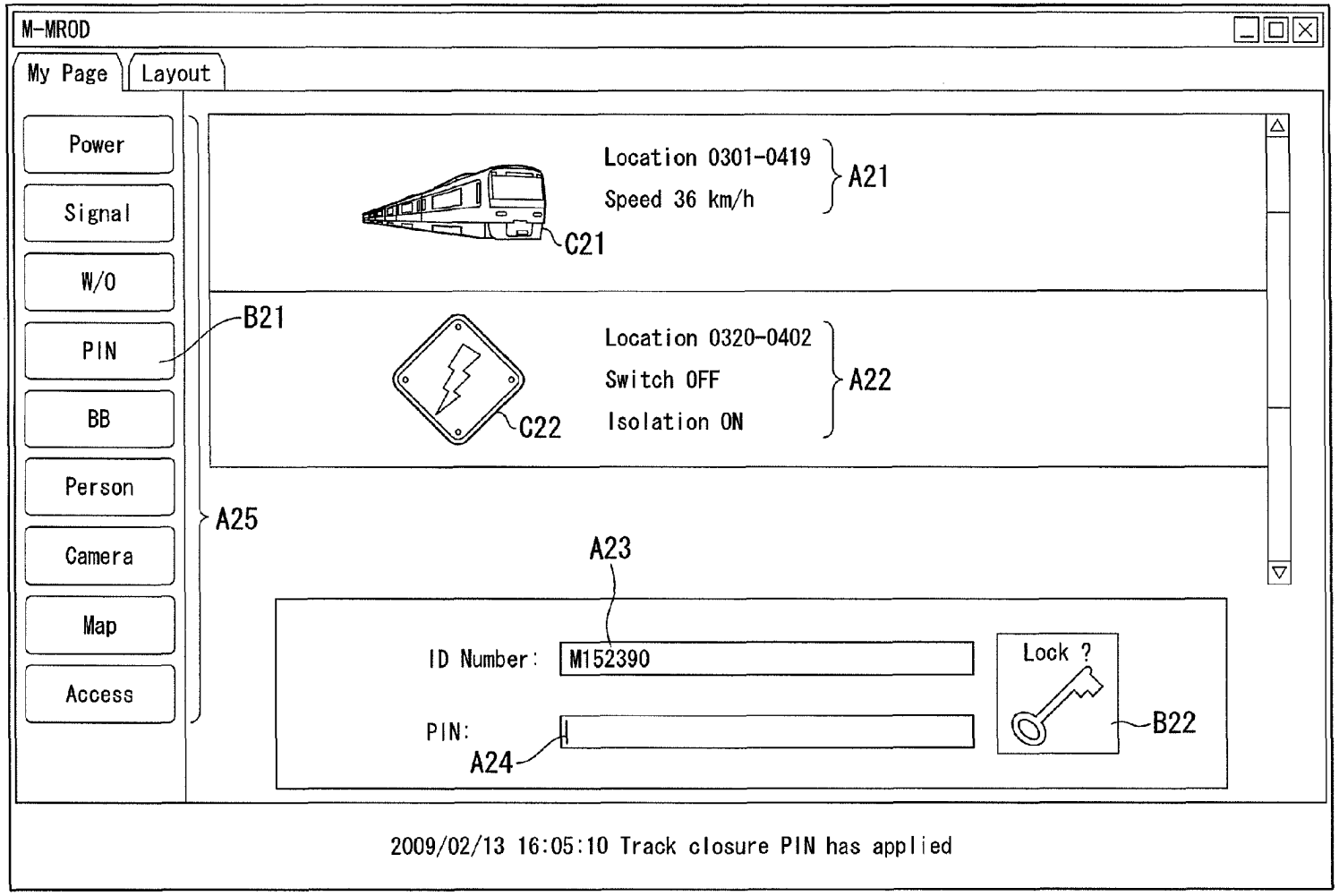

M-MROD
My Page
Layout
Power
Signal
W/O
PIN
BB
Person
Camera
Map
Access
B21
A25
Location 0301-0419
Speed 36 km/h
A21
C21
Location 0320-0402
Switch OFF
Isolation ON
A22
C22
A23
ID Number:
M152390
PIN:
A24
Lock ?
B22
2009/02/13 16:05:10 Track closure PIN has applied

FIG. 4

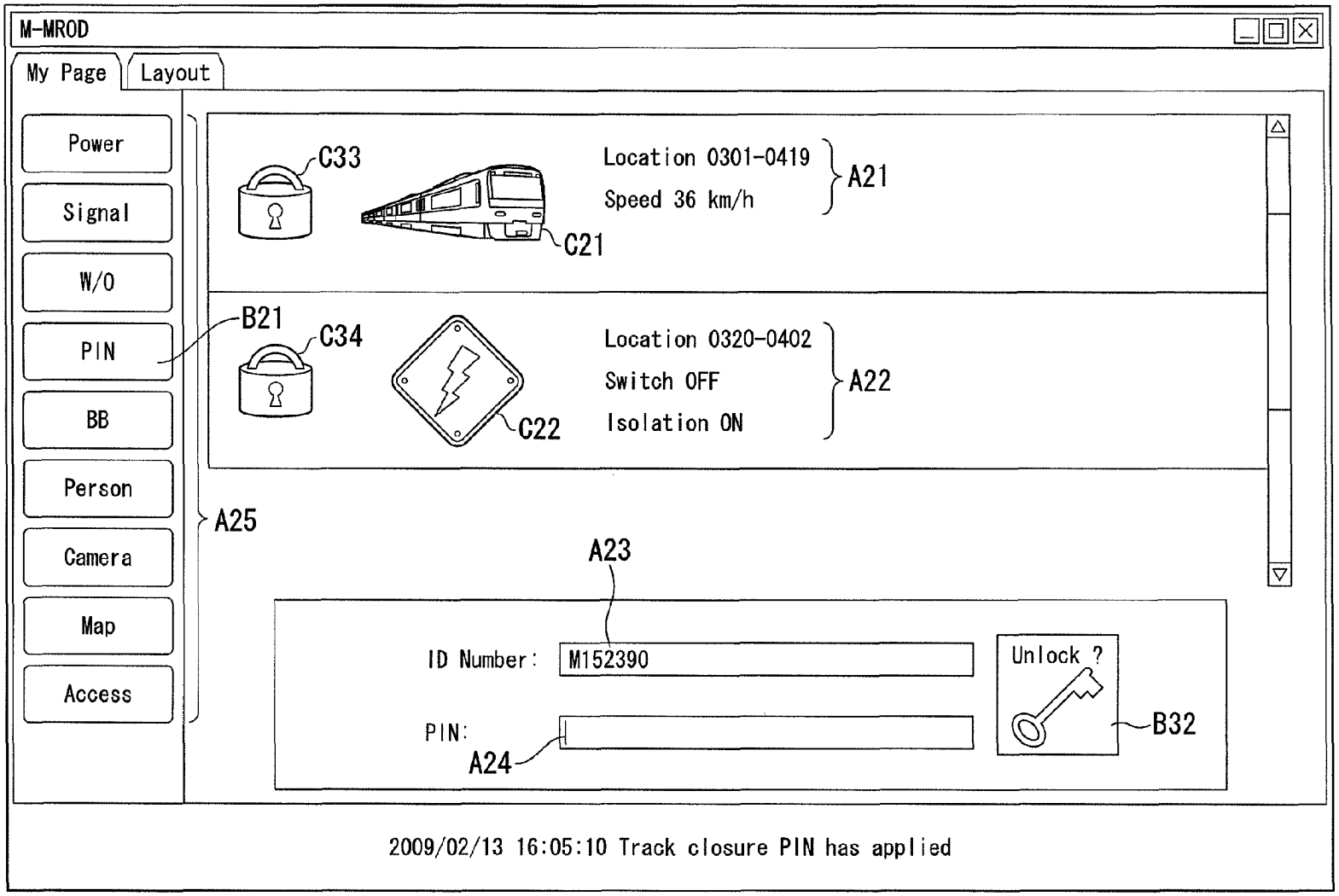

M-MROD
My Page
Layout
Power
Signal
W/O
PIN
BB
Person
Camera
Map
Access
A25
B21
C33
C34
C21
C22
Location 0301-0419
Speed 36 km/h
A21
Location 0320-0402
Switch OFF
Isolation ON
A22
A23
ID Number:
M152390
PIN:
A24
Unlock ?
B32
2009/02/13 16:05:10 Track closure PIN has applied

FIG. 5

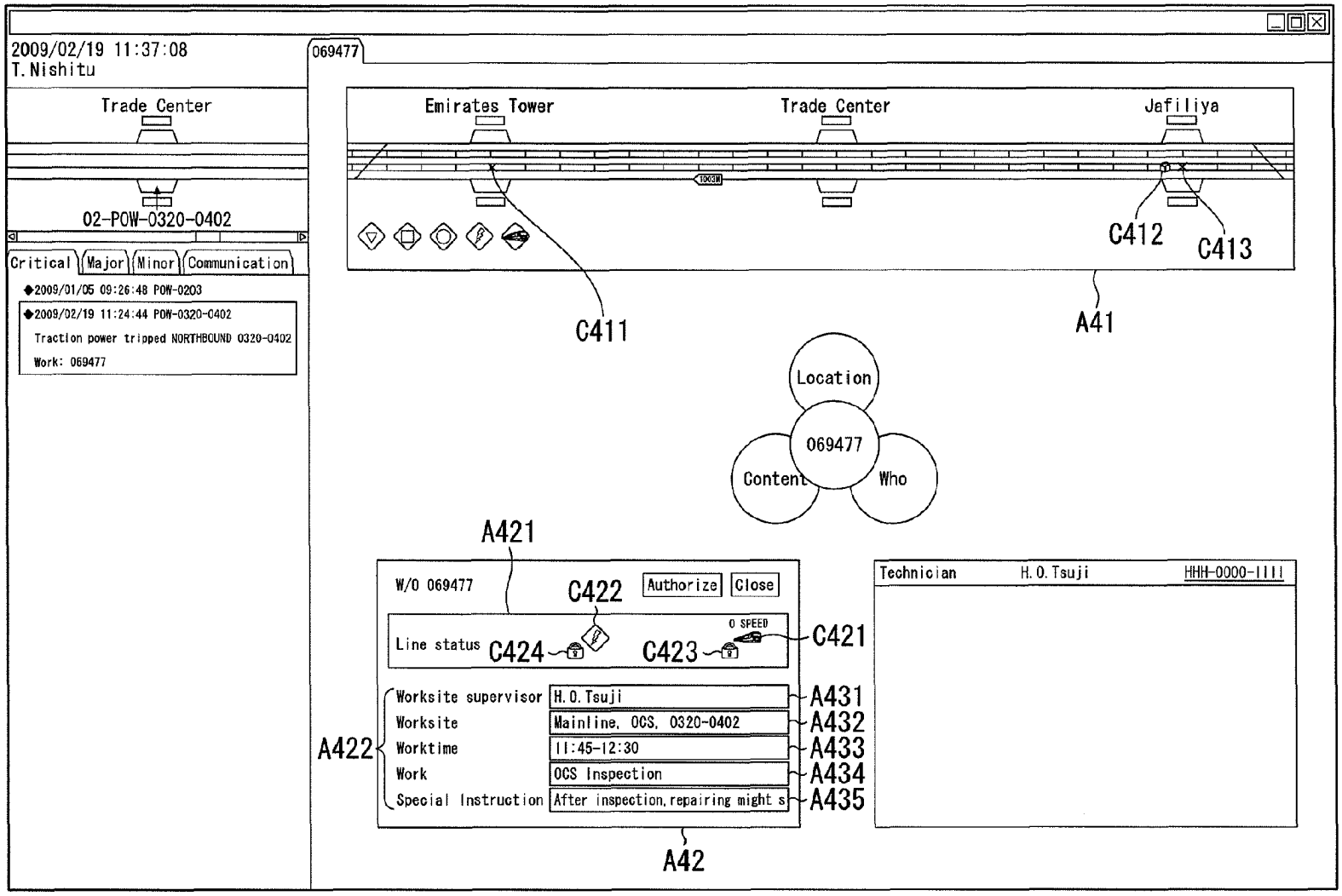

2009/02/19 11:37:08
T. Nishitu
069477
Trade Center
02-POW-0320-0402
Critical
Major
Minor
Communication
◆2009/01/05 09:26:48 POW-0203
◆2009/02/19 11:24:44 POW-0320-0402
Traction power tripped NORTHBOUND 0320-0402
Work: 069477
Emirates Tower
Trade Center
Jafiliya
C411
C412
C413
A41
Location
069477
Content
Who
A421
W/O 069477
C422
Authorize
Close
0 SPEED
Line status
C424
C423
C421
Worksite supervisor
H. O. Tsuji
Worksite
Mainline, OCS, 0320-0402
Worktime
11:45-12:30
Work
OCS Inspection
Special Instruction
After inspection, repairing might s
A422
A431
A432
A433
A434
A435
A42
Technician
H. O. Tsuji
HHH-0000-IIII

FIG. 6

| WORK ORDER NUMBER | PIN | SAFETY MEASURE 1 | SAFETY MEASURE 2 | SAFETY MEASURE 3 | ... |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ... | ... | NOT YET | NA | NOT YET | ... |
| ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... |

FIG. 7

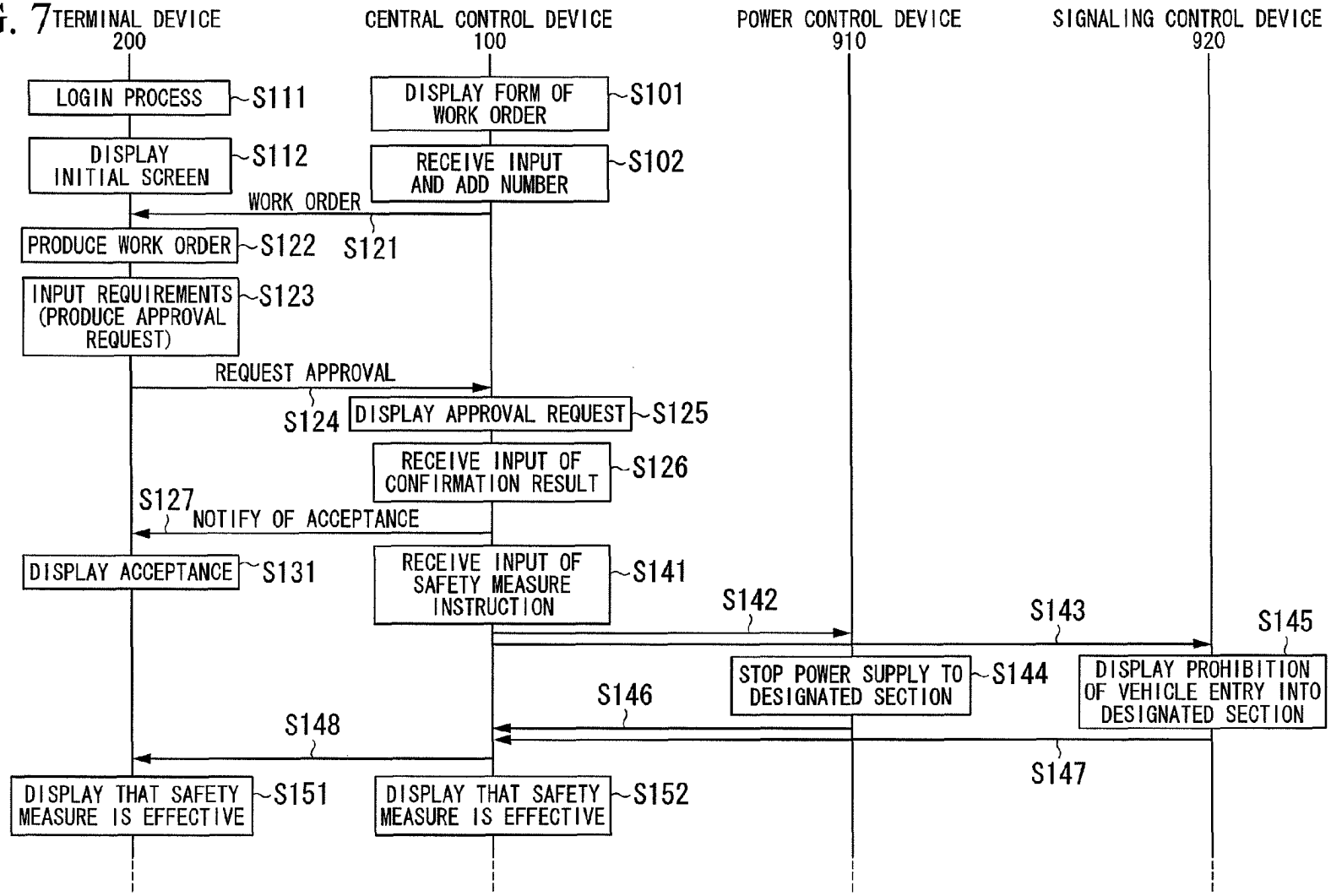

TERMINAL DEVICE 200
CENTRAL CONTROL DEVICE 100
POWER CONTROL DEVICE 910
SIGNALING CONTROL DEVICE 920
LOGIN PROCESS
S111
DISPLAY FORM OF WORK ORDER
S101
DISPLAY INITIAL SCREEN
S112
RECEIVE INPUT AND ADD NUMBER
S102
WORK ORDER
S121
PRODUCE WORK ORDER
S122
INPUT REQUIREMENTS (PRODUCE APPROVAL REQUEST)
S123
REQUEST APPROVAL
S124
DISPLAY APPROVAL REQUEST
S125
RECEIVE INPUT OF CONFIRMATION RESULT
S126
S127
NOTIFY OF ACCEPTANCE
DISPLAY ACCEPTANCE
S131
RECEIVE INPUT OF SAFETY MEASURE INSTRUCTION
S141
S142
S143
S145
STOP POWER SUPPLY TO DESIGNATED SECTION
S144
DISPLAY PROHIBITION OF VEHICLE ENTRY INTO DESIGNATED SECTION
S146
S148
S147
DISPLAY THAT SAFETY MEASURE IS EFFECTIVE
S151
DISPLAY THAT SAFETY MEASURE IS EFFECTIVE
S152

FIG. 8

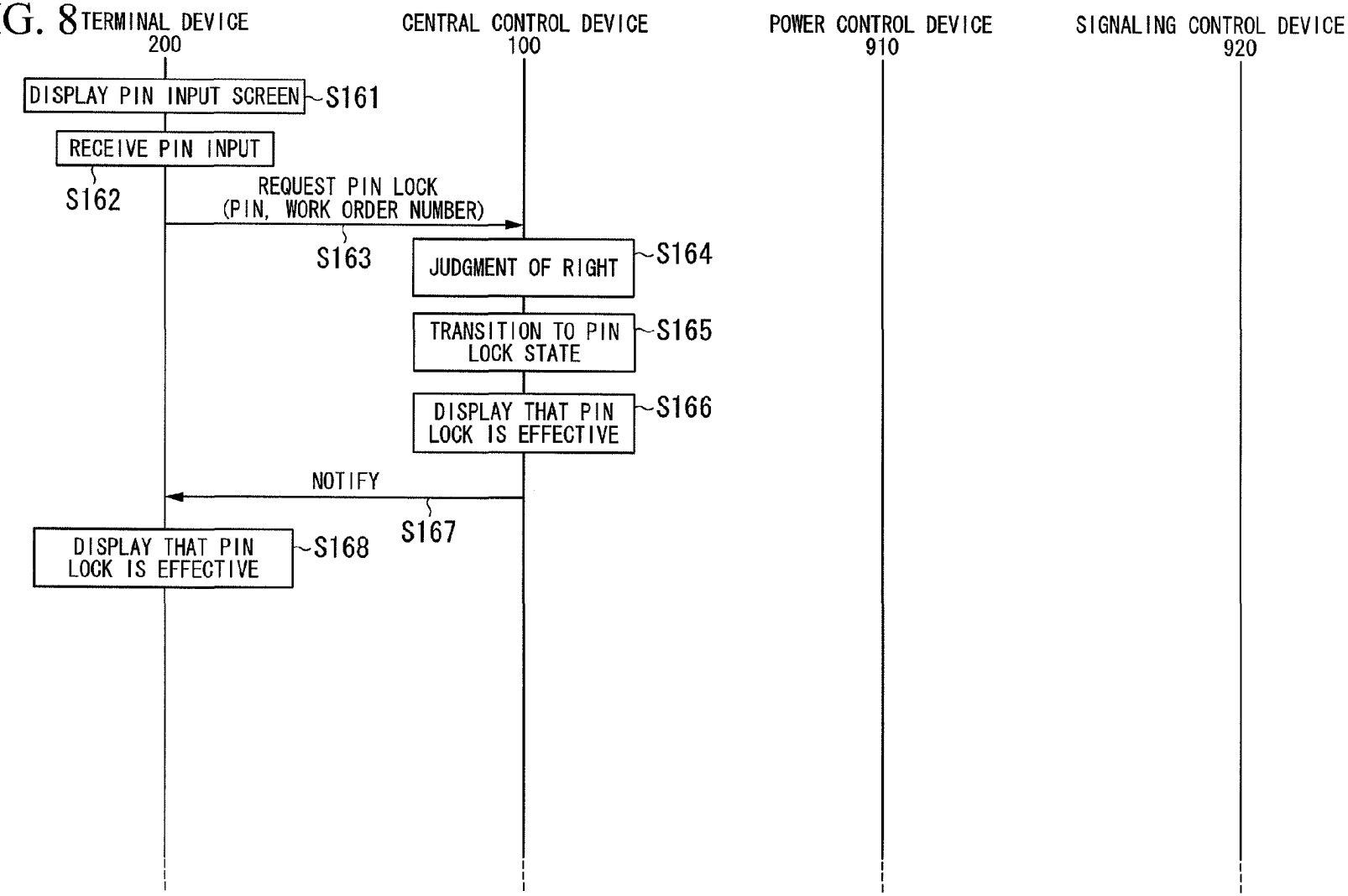

TERMINAL DEVICE
200
CENTRAL CONTROL DEVICE
100
POWER CONTROL DEVICE
910
SIGNALING CONTROL DEVICE
920
DISPLAY PIN INPUT SCREEN
S161
RECEIVE PIN INPUT
S162
REQUEST PIN LOCK
(PIN, WORK ORDER NUMBER)
S163
JUDGMENT OF RIGHT
S164
TRANSITION TO PIN LOCK STATE
S165
DISPLAY THAT PIN LOCK IS EFFECTIVE
S166
NOTIFY
S167
DISPLAY THAT PIN LOCK IS EFFECTIVE
S168

FIG. 9

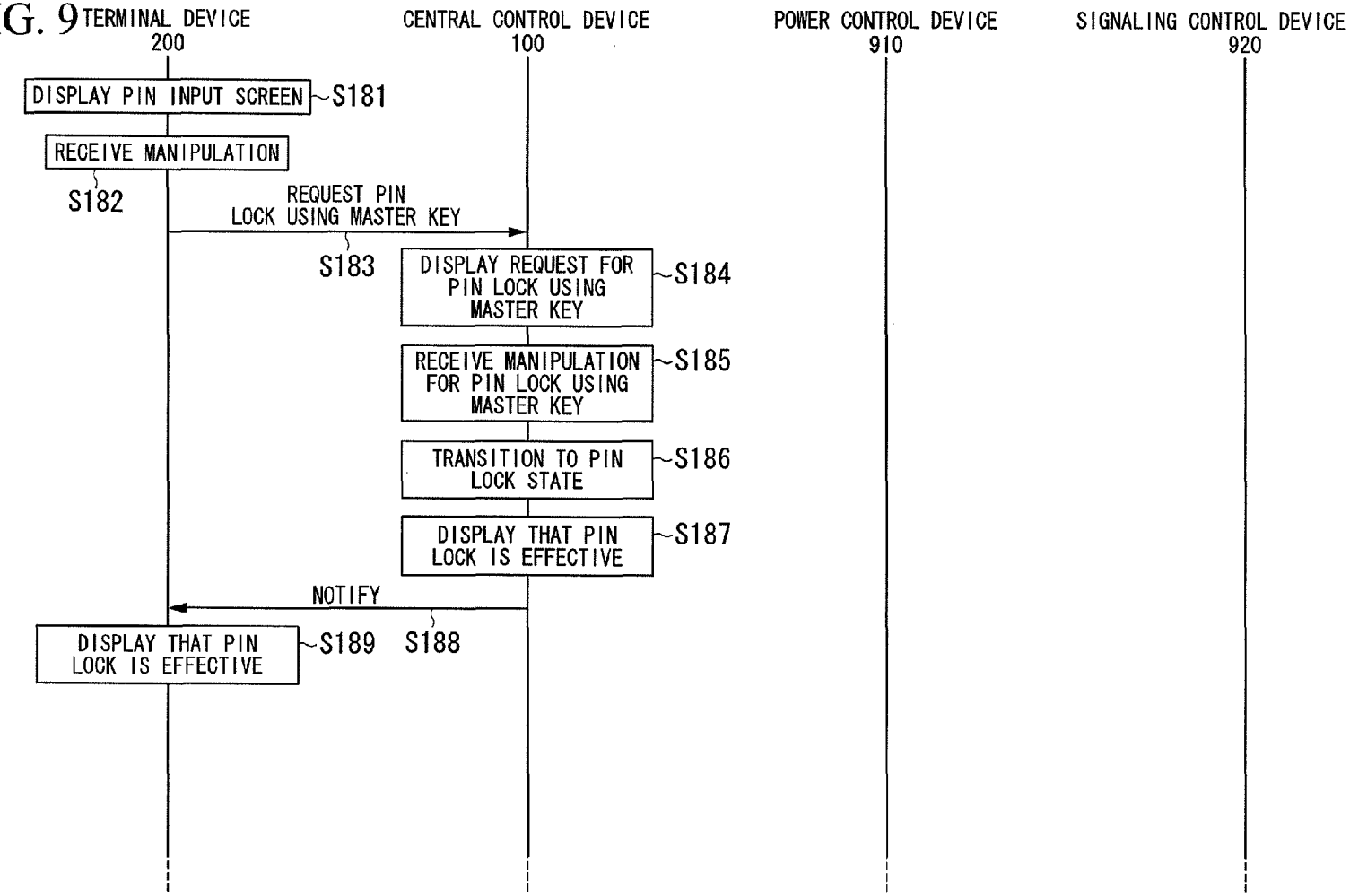

TERMINAL DEVICE
200
CENTRAL CONTROL DEVICE
100
POWER CONTROL DEVICE
910
SIGNALING CONTROL DEVICE
920
DISPLAY PIN INPUT SCREEN
S181
RECEIVE MANIPULATION
S182
REQUEST PIN LOCK USING MASTER KEY
S183
DISPLAY REQUEST FOR PIN LOCK USING MASTER KEY
S184
RECEIVE MANIPULATION FOR PIN LOCK USING MASTER KEY
S185
TRANSITION TO PIN LOCK STATE
S186
DISPLAY THAT PIN LOCK IS EFFECTIVE
S187
NOTIFY
S188
DISPLAY THAT PIN LOCK IS EFFECTIVE
S189

FIG. 10

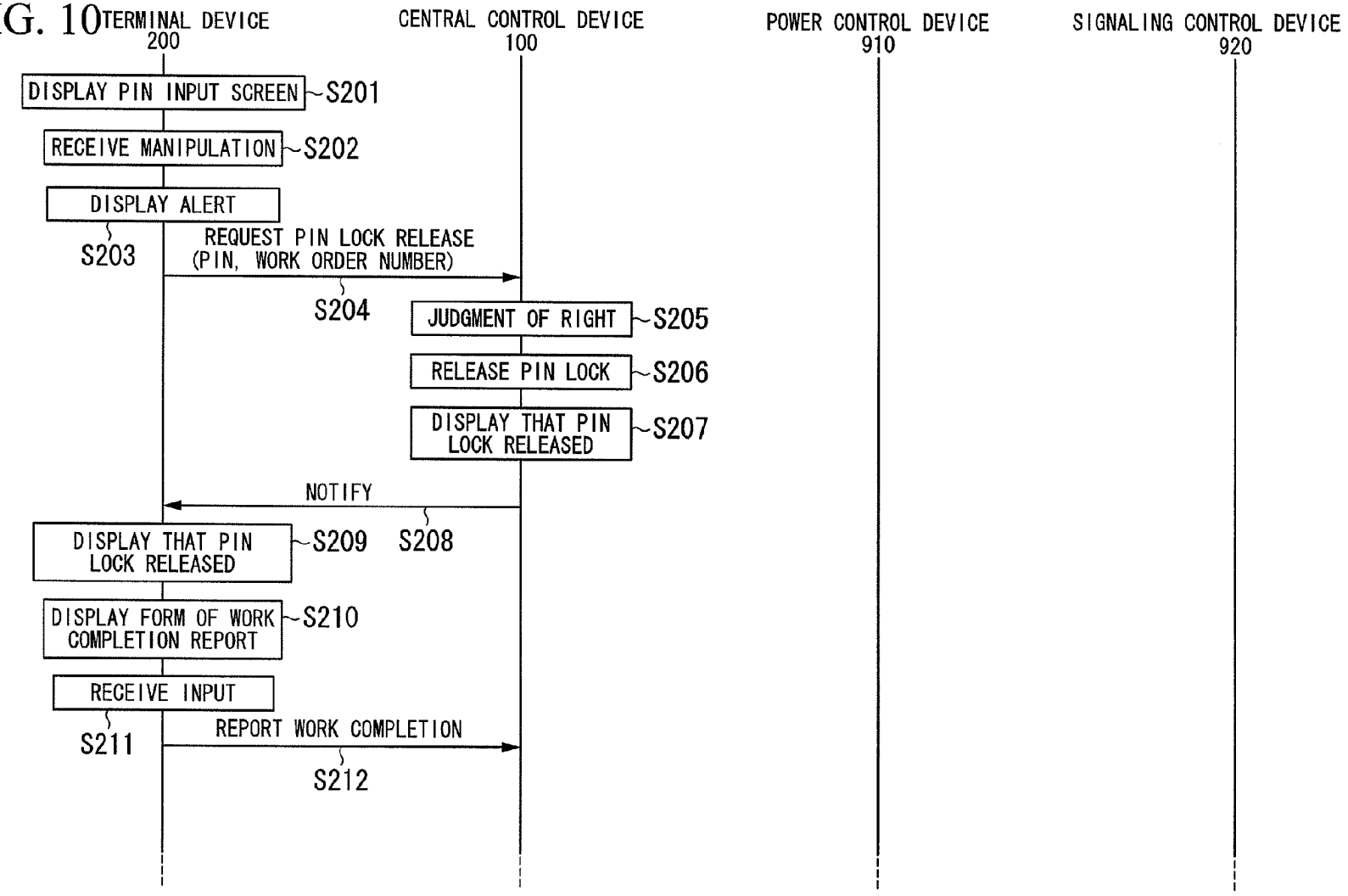

TERMINAL DEVICE
200
CENTRAL CONTROL DEVICE
100
POWER CONTROL DEVICE
910
SIGNALING CONTROL DEVICE
920
DISPLAY PIN INPUT SCREEN
S201
RECEIVE MANIPULATION
S202
DISPLAY ALERT
S203
REQUEST PIN LOCK RELEASE
(PIN, WORK ORDER NUMBER)
S204
JUDGMENT OF RIGHT
S205
RELEASE PIN LOCK
S206
DISPLAY THAT PIN
LOCK RELEASED
S207
NOTIFY
S208
DISPLAY THAT PIN
LOCK RELEASED
S209
DISPLAY FORM OF WORK
COMPLETION REPORT
S210
RECEIVE INPUT
S211
REPORT WORK COMPLETION
S212

FIG. 11

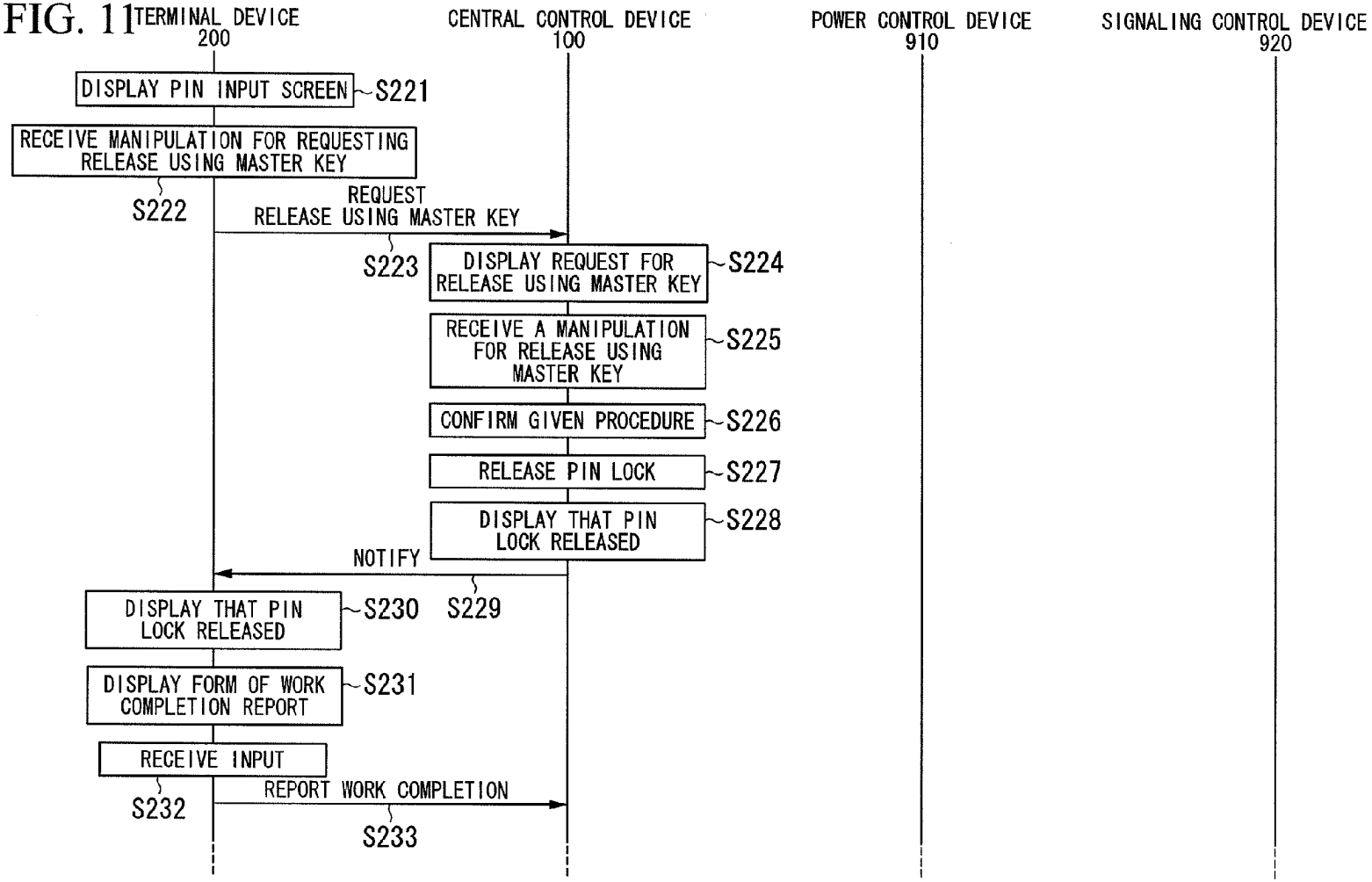

TERMINAL DEVICE 200
CENTRAL CONTROL DEVICE 100
POWER CONTROL DEVICE 910
SIGNALING CONTROL DEVICE 920
DISPLAY PIN INPUT SCREEN
S221
RECEIVE MANIPULATION FOR REQUESTING RELEASE USING MASTER KEY
S222
REQUEST RELEASE USING MASTER KEY
S223
DISPLAY REQUEST FOR RELEASE USING MASTER KEY
S224
RECEIVE A MANIPULATION FOR RELEASE USING MASTER KEY
S225
CONFIRM GIVEN PROCEDURE
S226
RELEASE PIN LOCK
S227
DISPLAY THAT PIN LOCK RELEASED
S228
NOTIFY
S229
DISPLAY THAT PIN LOCK RELEASED
S230
DISPLAY FORM OF WORK COMPLETION REPORT
S231
RECEIVE INPUT
S232
REPORT WORK COMPLETION
S233

FIG. 12

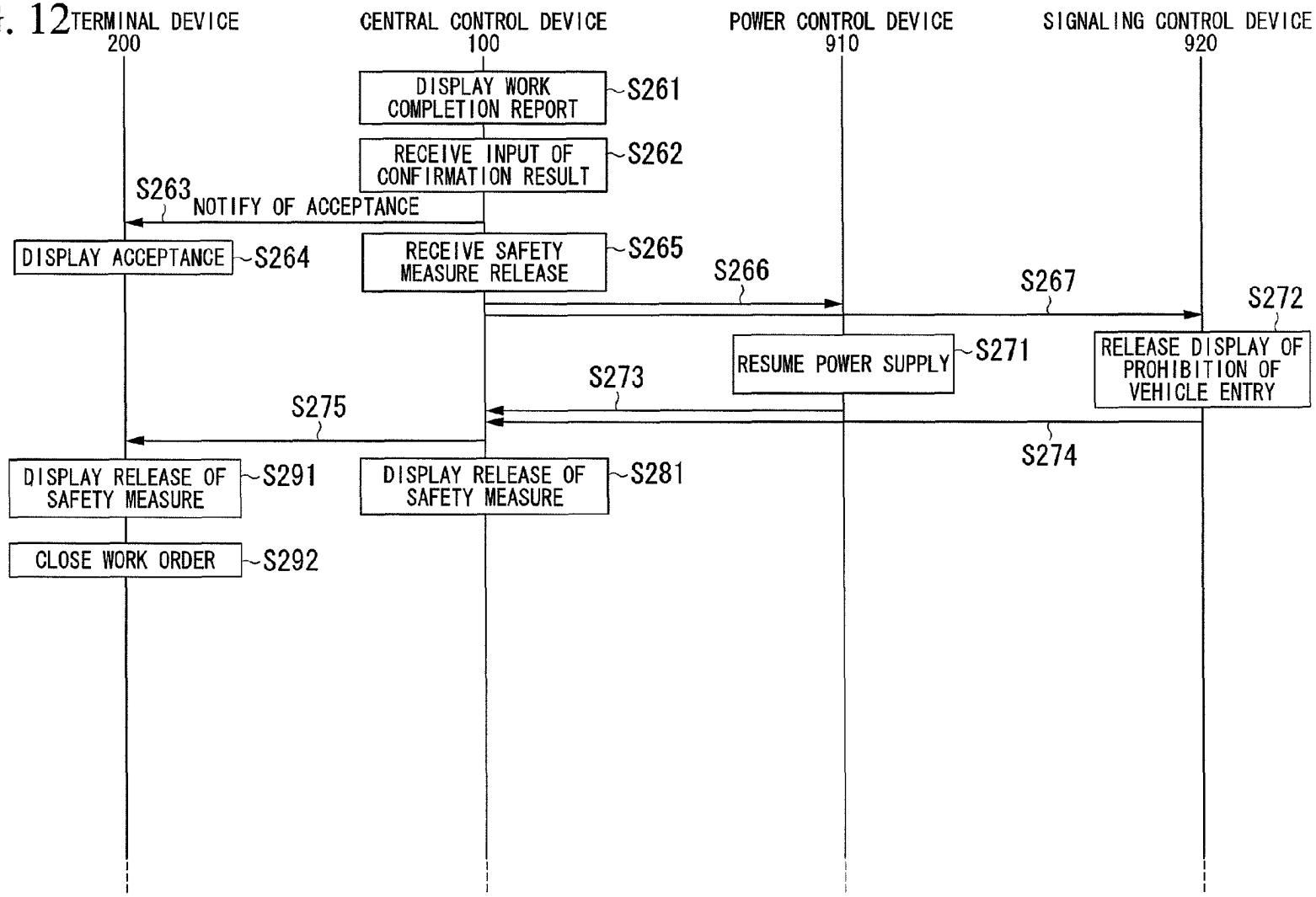

TERMINAL DEVICE
200
CENTRAL CONTROL DEVICE
100
POWER CONTROL DEVICE
910
SIGNALING CONTROL DEVICE
920
DISPLAY WORK COMPLETION REPORT
S261
RECEIVE INPUT OF CONFIRMATION RESULT
S262
S263
NOTIFY OF ACCEPTANCE
DISPLAY ACCEPTANCE
S264
RECEIVE SAFETY MEASURE RELEASE
S265
S266
S267
S272
RESUME POWER SUPPLY
S271
RELEASE DISPLAY OF PROHIBITION OF VEHICLE ENTRY
S273
S275
S274
DISPLAY RELEASE OF SAFETY MEASURE
S291
DISPLAY RELEASE OF SAFETY MEASURE
S281
CLOSE WORK ORDER
S292

FIG. 13

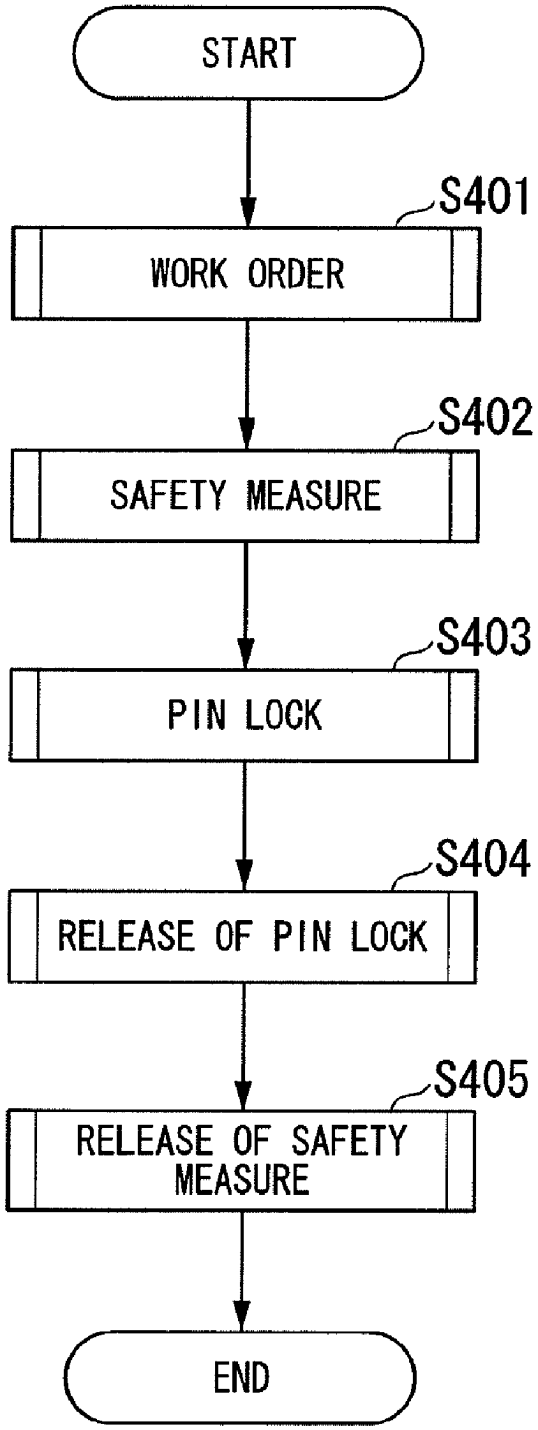

START
S401
WORK ORDER
S402
SAFETY MEASURE
S403
PIN LOCK
S404
RELEASE OF PIN LOCK
S405
RELEASE OF SAFETY MEASURE
END

FIG. 14

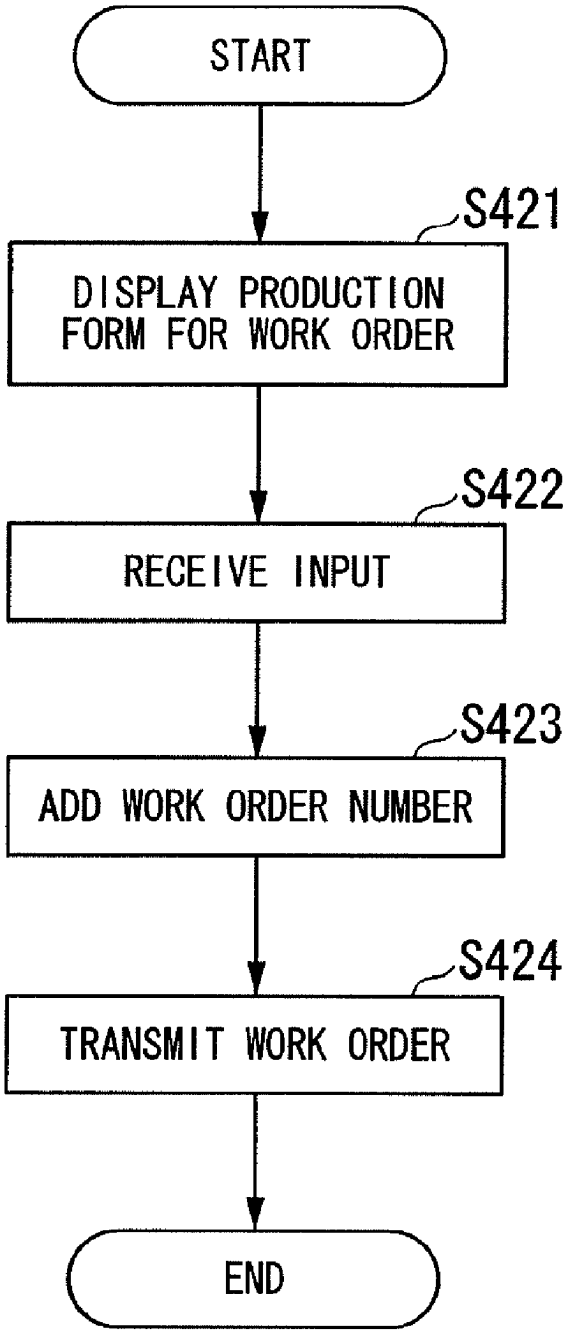

START
S421
DISPLAY PRODUCTION FORM FOR WORK ORDER
S422
RECEIVE INPUT
S423
ADD WORK ORDER NUMBER
S424
TRANSMIT WORK ORDER
END

FIG. 15

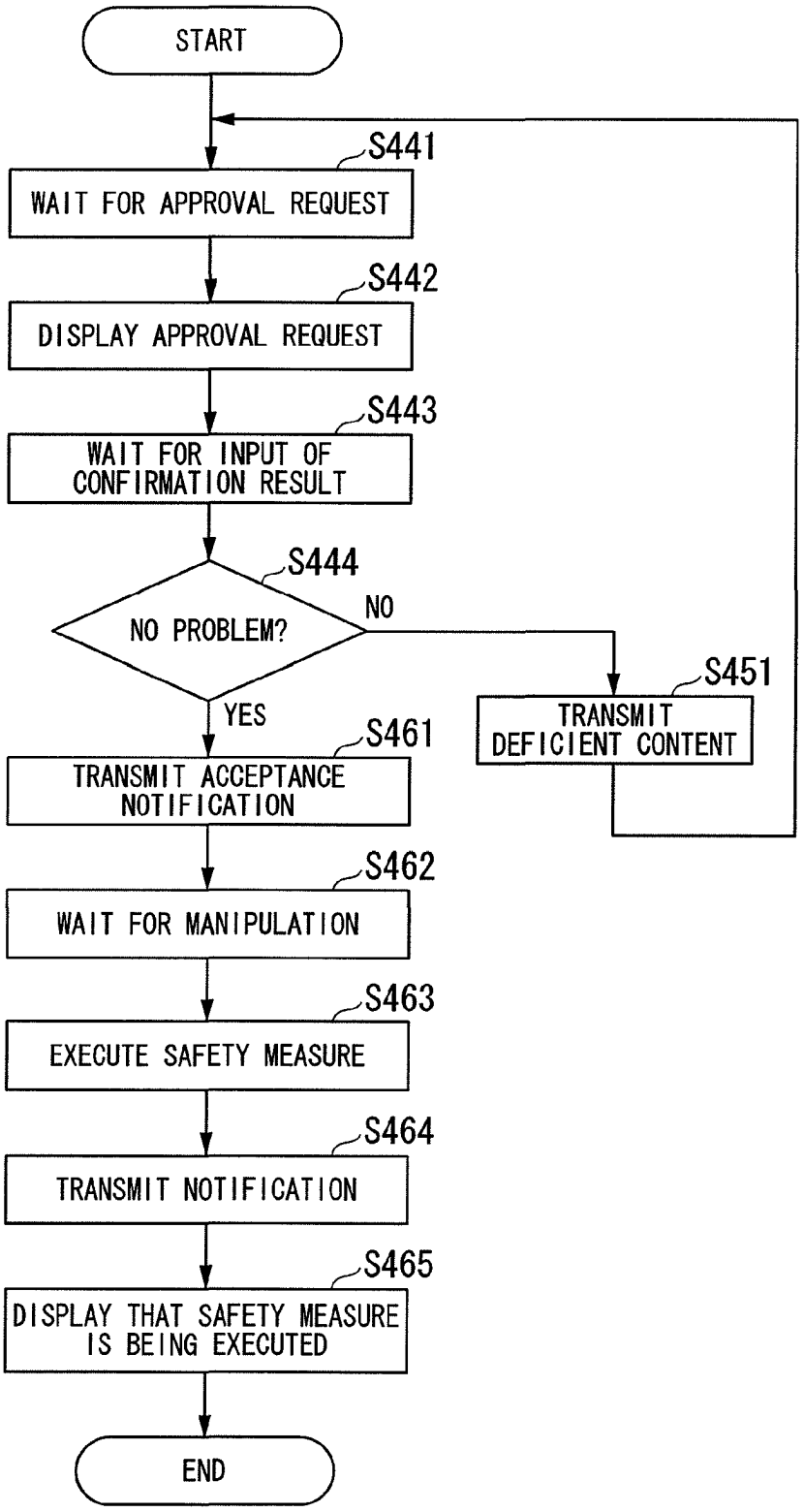

START
S441
WAIT FOR APPROVAL REQUEST
S442
DISPLAY APPROVAL REQUEST
S443
WAIT FOR INPUT OF CONFIRMATION RESULT
S444
NO PROBLEM?
NO
YES
S451
TRANSMIT DEFICIENT CONTENT
S461
TRANSMIT ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION
S462
WAIT FOR MANIPULATION
S463
EXECUTE SAFETY MEASURE
S464
TRANSMIT NOTIFICATION
S465
DISPLAY THAT SAFETY MEASURE IS BEING EXECUTED
END

FIG. 16

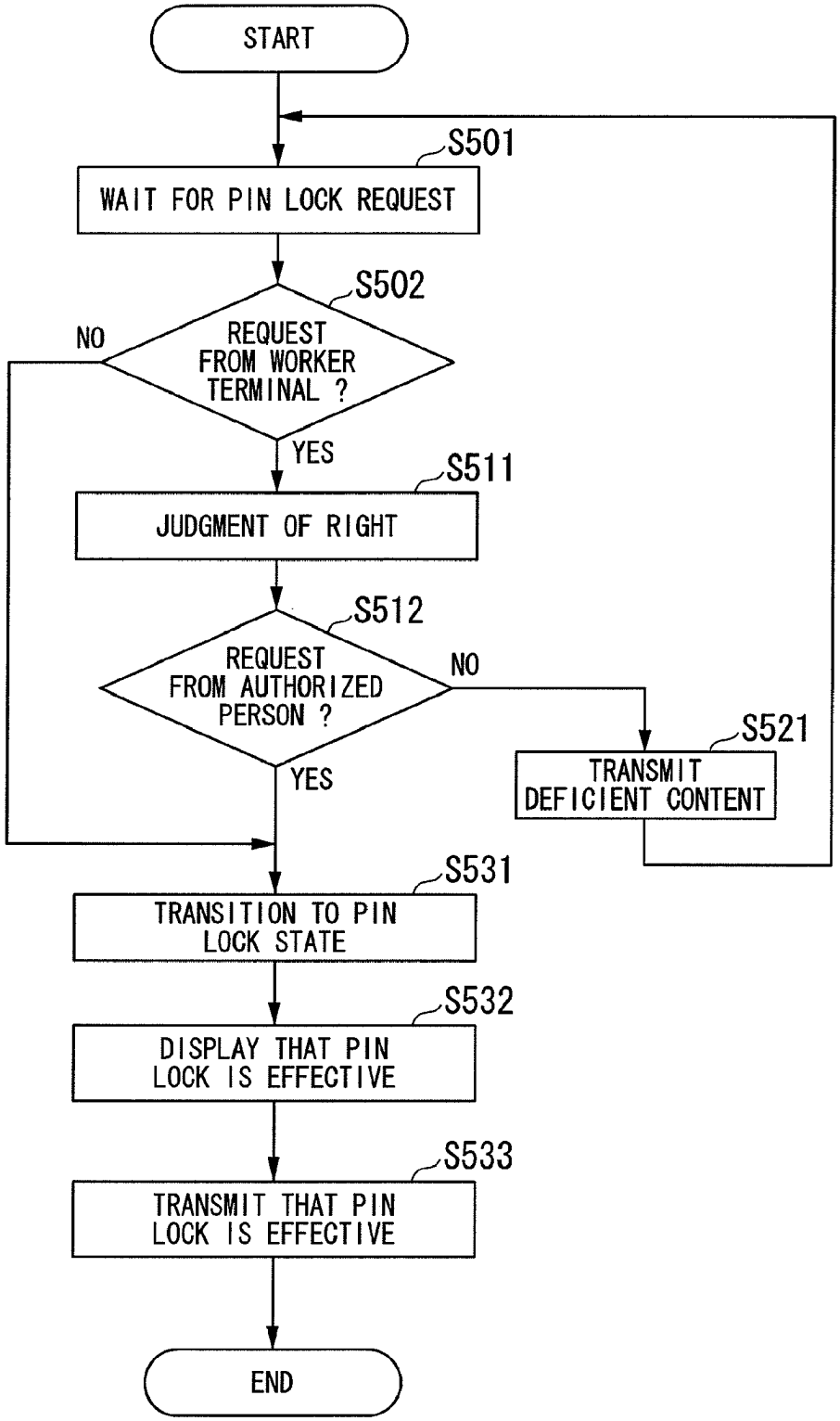

START
S501
WAIT FOR PIN LOCK REQUEST
S502
REQUEST FROM WORKER TERMINAL ?
NO
YES
S511
JUDGMENT OF RIGHT
S512
REQUEST FROM AUTHORIZED PERSON ?
NO
YES
S521
TRANSMIT DEFICIENT CONTENT
S531
TRANSITION TO PIN LOCK STATE
S532
DISPLAY THAT PIN LOCK IS EFFECTIVE
S533
TRANSMIT THAT PIN LOCK IS EFFECTIVE
END

FIG. 17

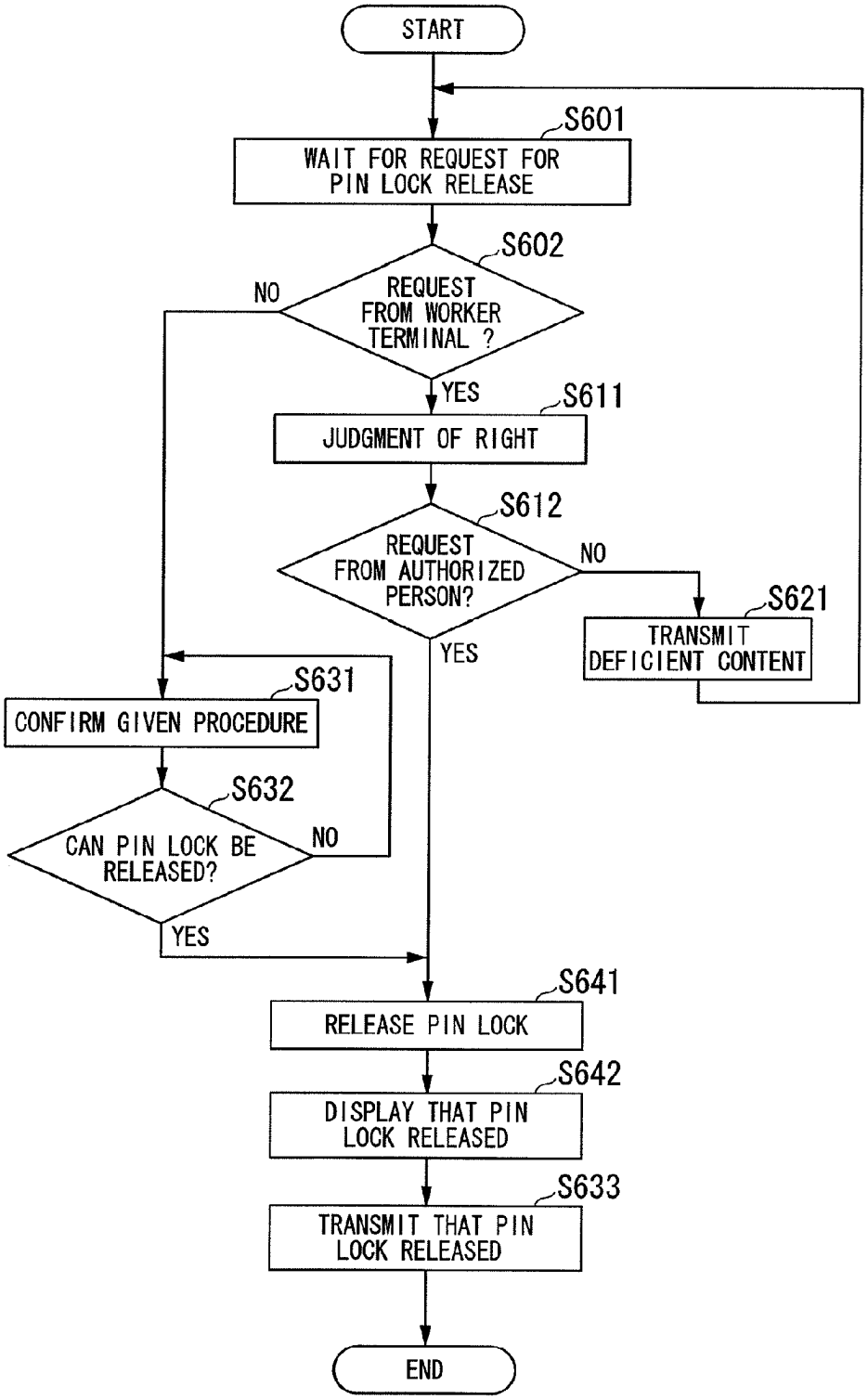

START
S601
WAIT FOR REQUEST FOR PIN LOCK RELEASE
S602
REQUEST FROM WORKER TERMINAL ?
NO
YES
S611
JUDGMENT OF RIGHT
S612
REQUEST FROM AUTHORIZED PERSON?
NO
YES
S621
TRANSMIT DEFICIENT CONTENT
S631
CONFIRM GIVEN PROCEDURE
S632
CAN PIN LOCK BE RELEASED?
NO
YES
S641
RELEASE PIN LOCK
S642
DISPLAY THAT PIN LOCK RELEASED
S633
TRANSMIT THAT PIN LOCK RELEASED
END

FIG. 18

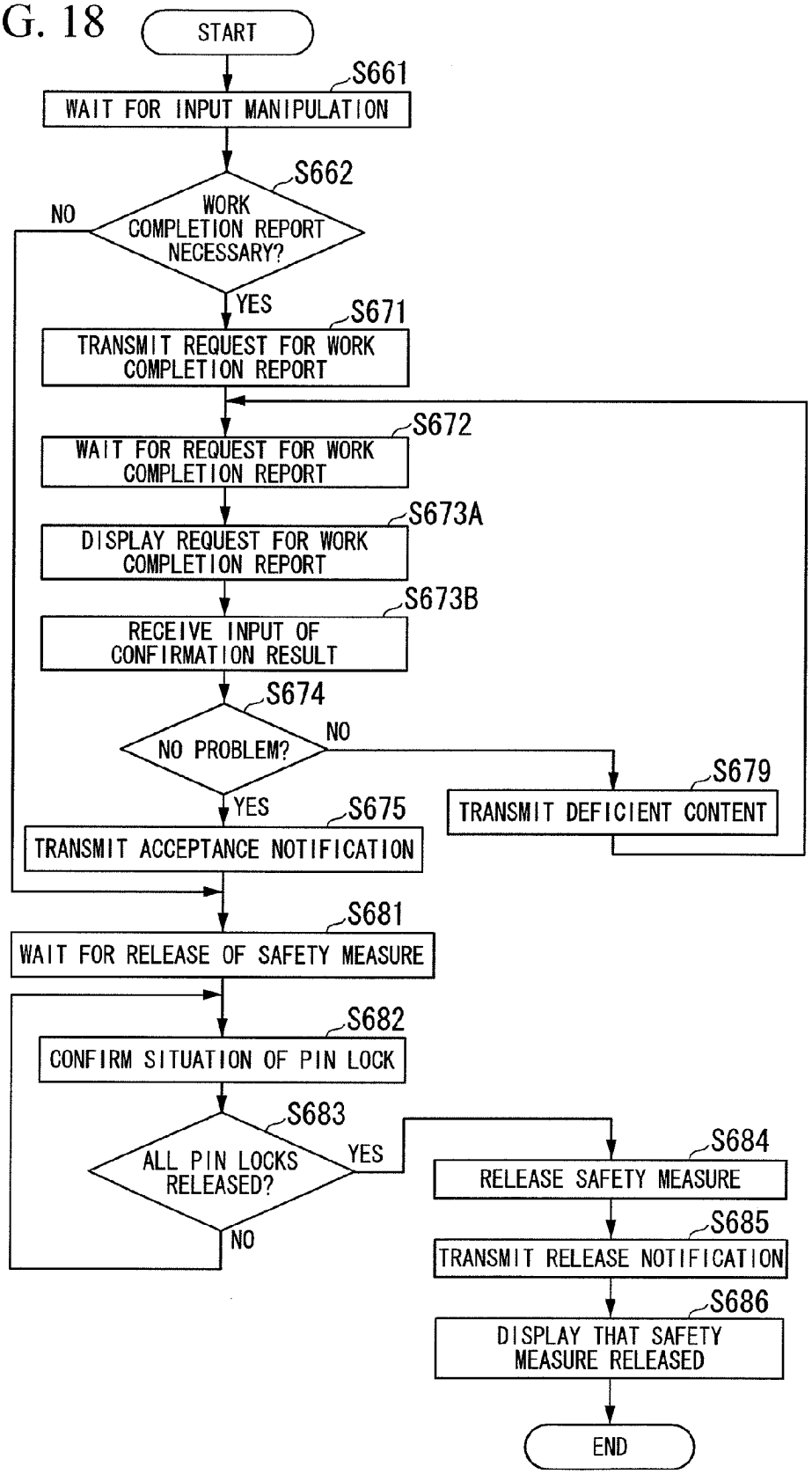

START
S661
WAIT FOR INPUT MANIPULATION
S662
WORK COMPLETION REPORT NECESSARY?
NO
YES
S671
TRANSMIT REQUEST FOR WORK COMPLETION REPORT
S672
WAIT FOR REQUEST FOR WORK COMPLETION REPORT
S673A
DISPLAY REQUEST FOR WORK COMPLETION REPORT
S673B
RECEIVE INPUT OF CONFIRMATION RESULT
S674
NO PROBLEM?
NO
YES
S679
TRANSMIT DEFICIENT CONTENT
S675
TRANSMIT ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION
S681
WAIT FOR RELEASE OF SAFETY MEASURE
S682
CONFIRM SITUATION OF PIN LOCK
S683
ALL PIN LOCKS RELEASED?
YES
NO
S684
RELEASE SAFETY MEASURE
S685
TRANSMIT RELEASE NOTIFICATION
S686
DISPLAY THAT SAFETY MEASURE RELEASED
END

FIG. 19

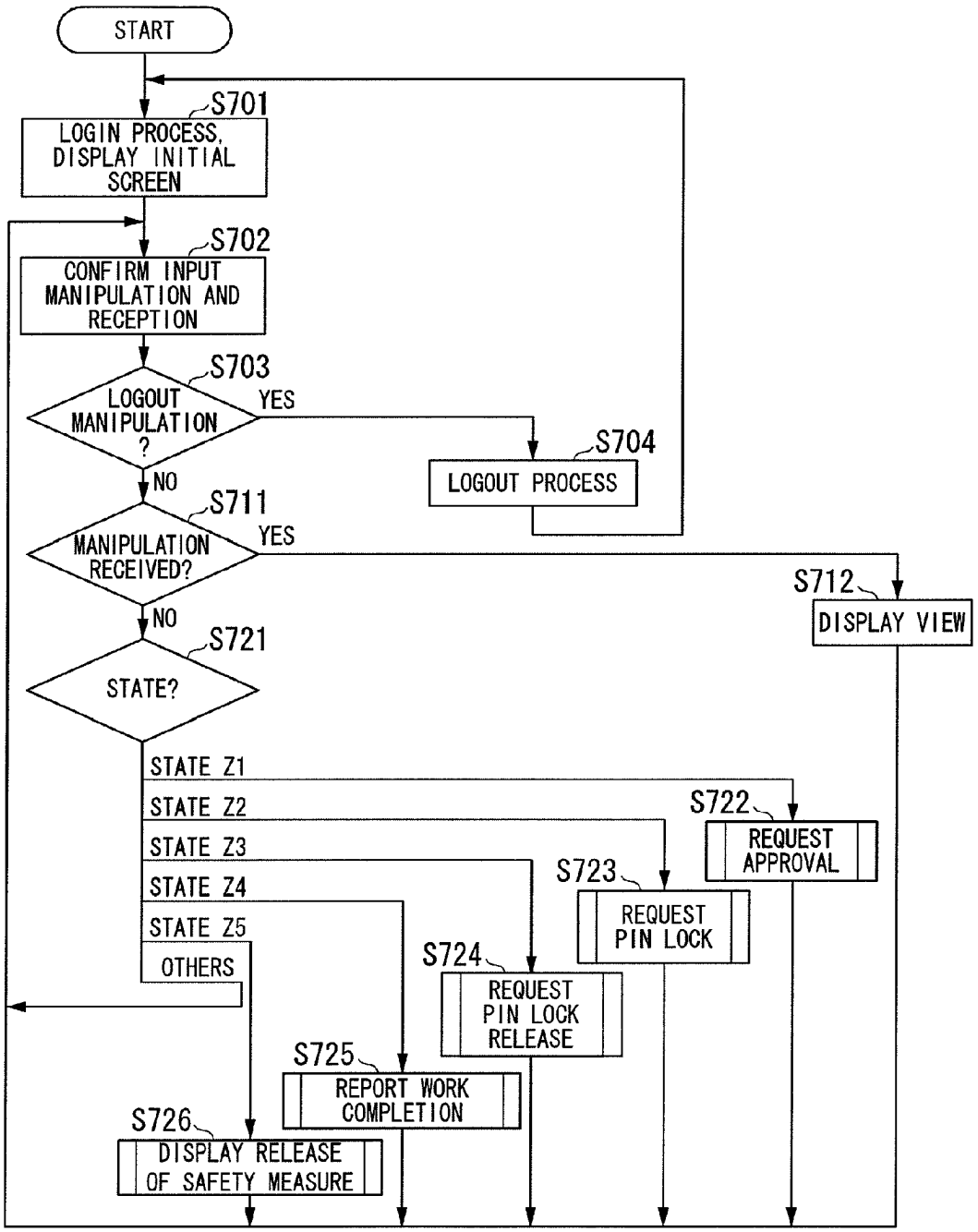

START
S701
LOGIN PROCESS, DISPLAY INITIAL SCREEN
S702
CONFIRM INPUT MANIPULATION AND RECEPTION
S703
LOGOUT MANIPULATION ?
YES
S704
LOGOUT PROCESS
NO
S711
MANIPULATION RECEIVED?
YES
S712
DISPLAY VIEW
NO
S721
STATE?
STATE Z1
STATE Z2
STATE Z3
STATE Z4
STATE Z5
OTHERS
S722
REQUEST APPROVAL
S723
REQUEST PIN LOCK
S724
REQUEST PIN LOCK RELEASE
S725
REPORT WORK COMPLETION
S726
DISPLAY RELEASE OF SAFETY MEASURE

FIG. 20

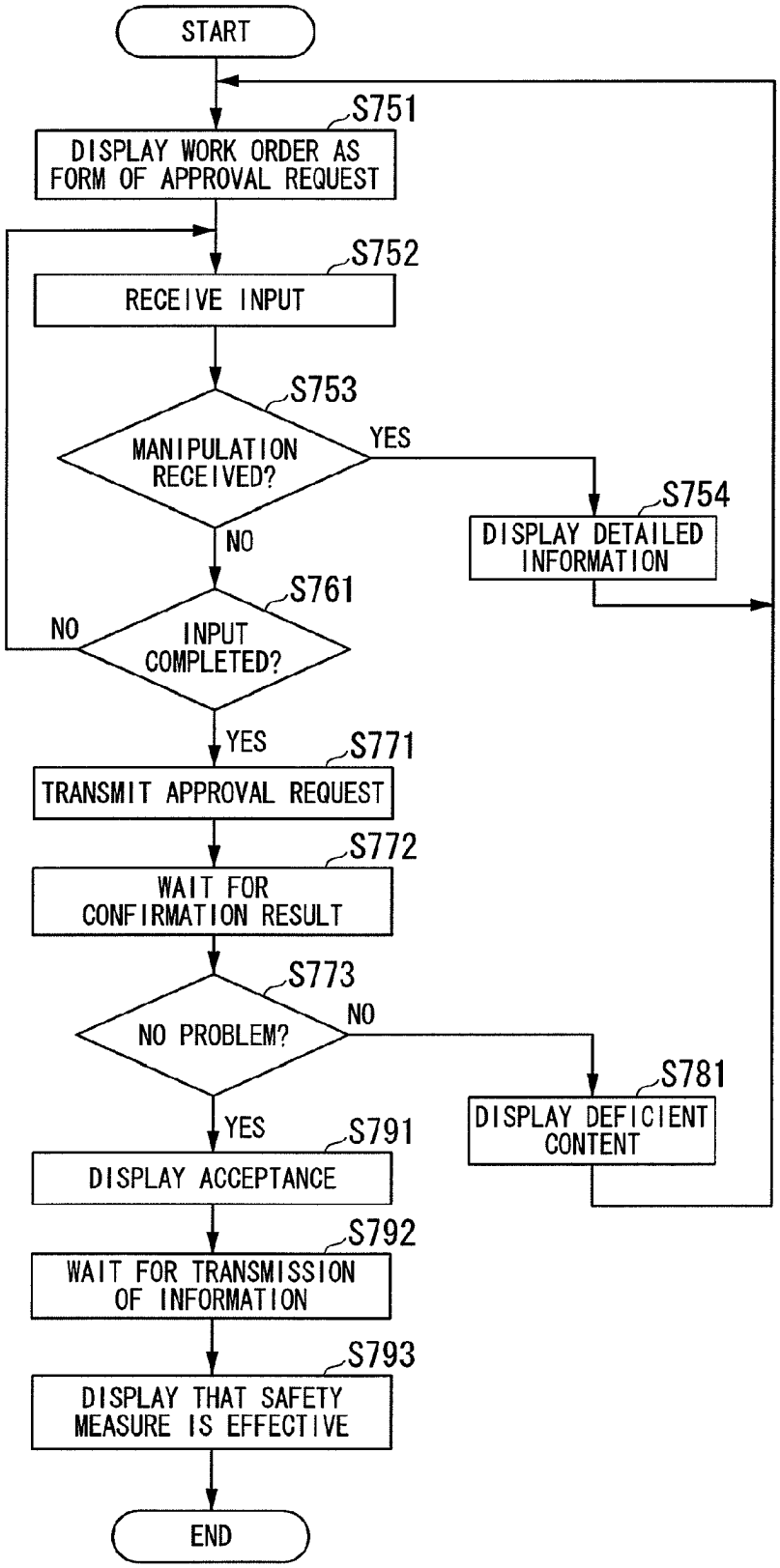

START
S751
DISPLAY WORK ORDER AS FORM OF APPROVAL REQUEST
S752
RECEIVE INPUT
S753
MANIPULATION RECEIVED?
YES
S754
DISPLAY DETAILED INFORMATION
NO
S761
INPUT COMPLETED?
NO
YES
S771
TRANSMIT APPROVAL REQUEST
S772
WAIT FOR CONFIRMATION RESULT
S773
NO PROBLEM?
NO
S781
DISPLAY DEFICIENT CONTENT
YES
S791
DISPLAY ACCEPTANCE
S792
WAIT FOR TRANSMISSION OF INFORMATION
S793
DISPLAY THAT SAFETY MEASURE IS EFFECTIVE
END

FIG. 21

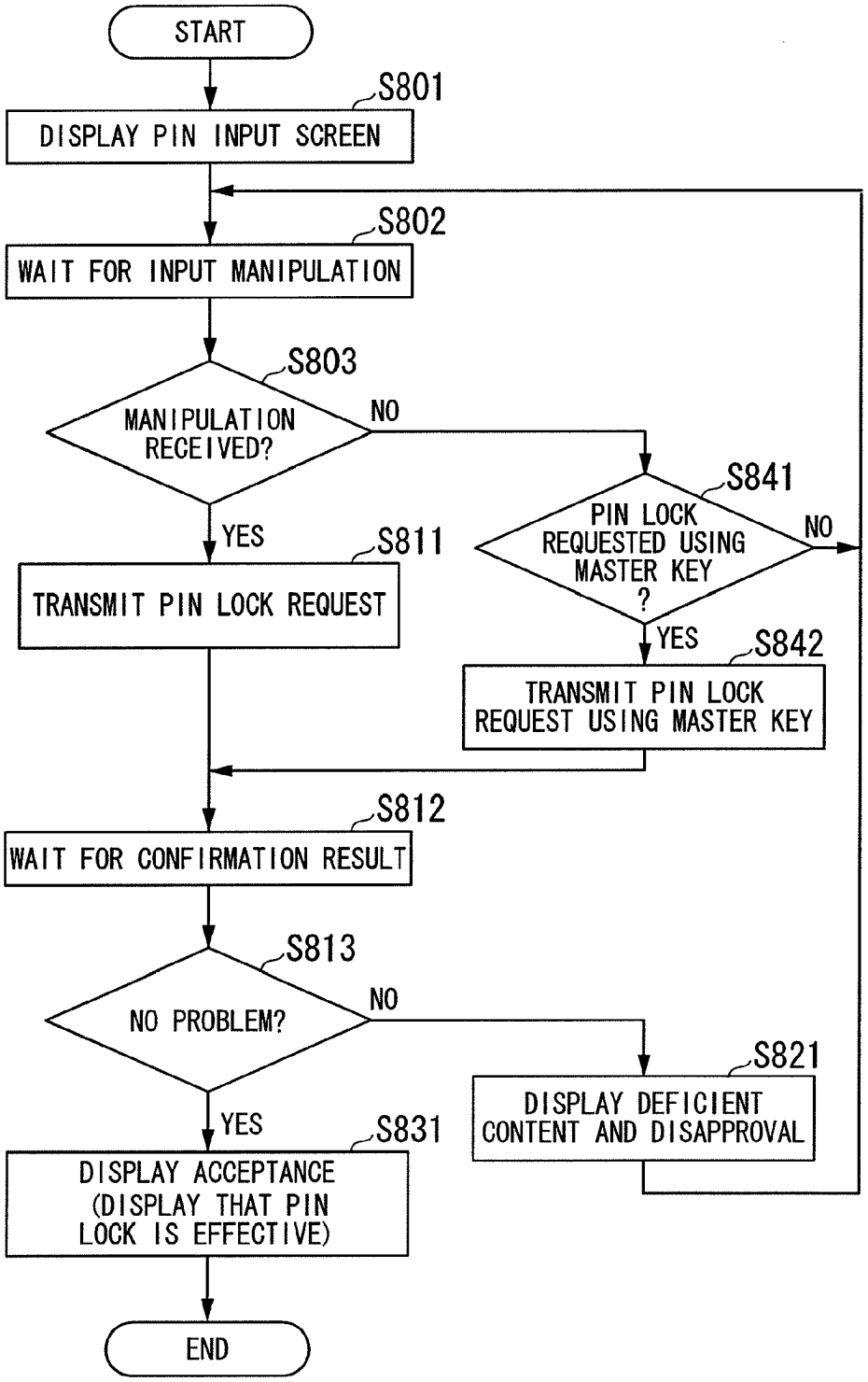

START
S801
DISPLAY PIN INPUT SCREEN
S802
WAIT FOR INPUT MANIPULATION
S803
MANIPULATION RECEIVED?
NO
YES
S841
PIN LOCK REQUESTED USING MASTER KEY ?
NO
YES
S811
TRANSMIT PIN LOCK REQUEST
S842
TRANSMIT PIN LOCK REQUEST USING MASTER KEY
S812
WAIT FOR CONFIRMATION RESULT
S813
NO PROBLEM?
NO
YES
S821
DISPLAY DEFICIENT CONTENT AND DISAPPROVAL
S831
DISPLAY ACCEPTANCE (DISPLAY THAT PIN LOCK IS EFFECTIVE)
END

FIG. 22

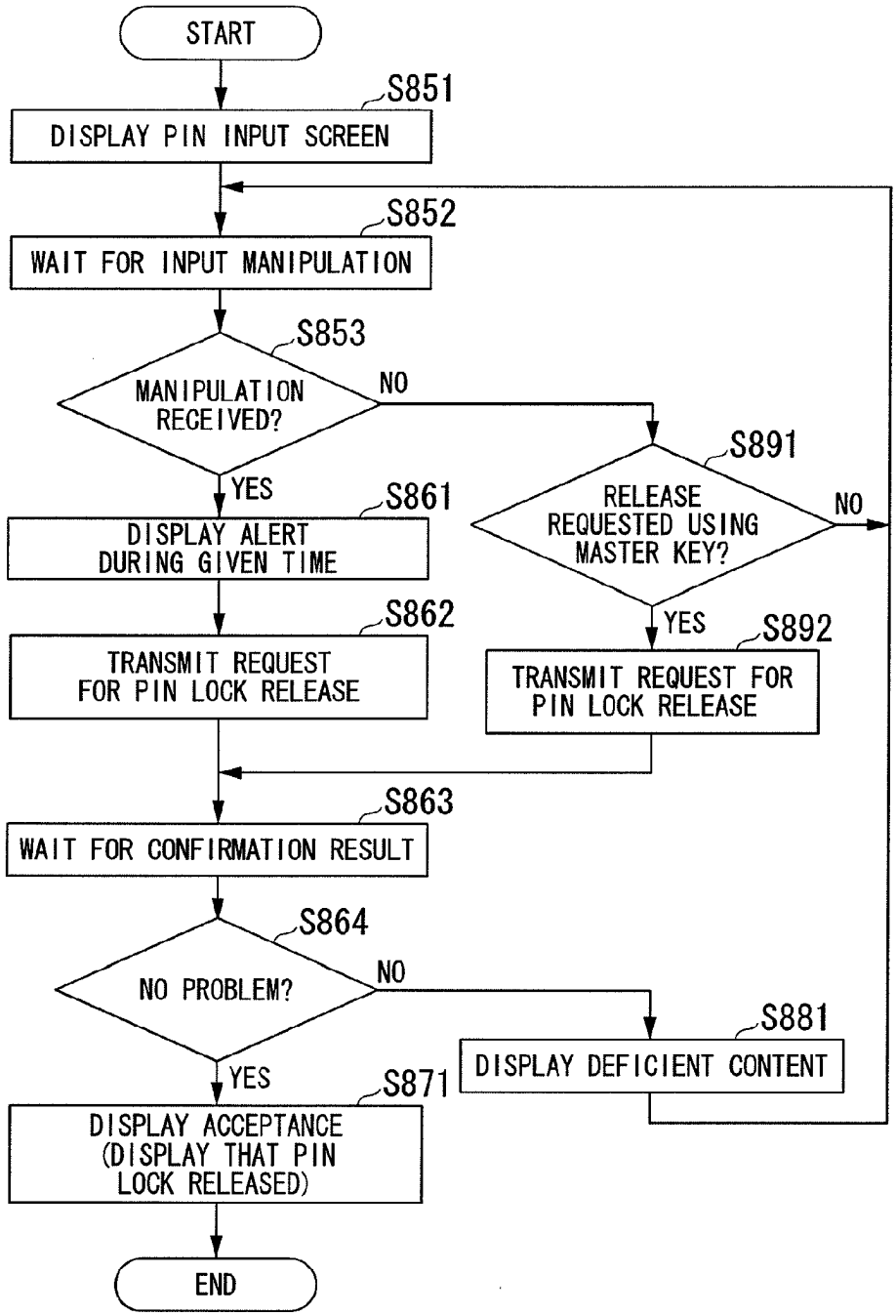
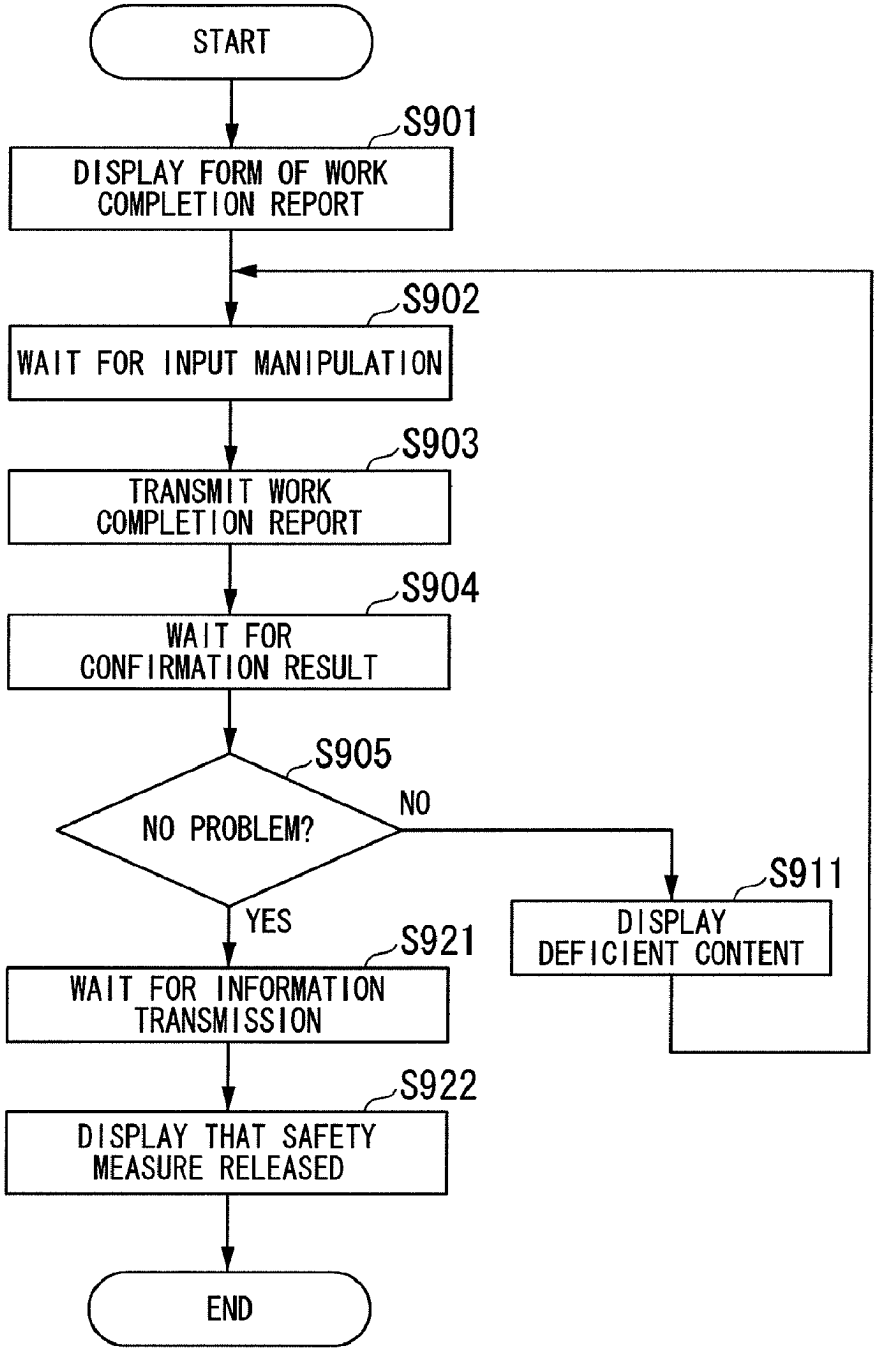

START
S851
DISPLAY PIN INPUT SCREEN
S852
WAIT FOR INPUT MANIPULATION
S853
MANIPULATION RECEIVED?
NO
YES
S861
DISPLAY ALERT DURING GIVEN TIME
S862
TRANSMIT REQUEST FOR PIN LOCK RELEASE
S891
RELEASE REQUESTED USING MASTER KEY?
NO
YES
S892
TRANSMIT REQUEST FOR PIN LOCK RELEASE
S863
WAIT FOR CONFIRMATION RESULT
S864
NO PROBLEM?
NO
S881
DISPLAY DEFICIENT CONTENT
YES
S871
DISPLAY ACCEPTANCE (DISPLAY THAT PIN LOCK RELEASED)
END

FIG. 23


START
S901
DISPLAY FORM OF WORK COMPLETION REPORT
S902
WAIT FOR INPUT MANIPULATION
S903
TRANSMIT WORK COMPLETION REPORT
S904
WAIT FOR CONFIRMATION RESULT
S905
NO PROBLEM?
NO
YES
S911
DISPLAY DEFICIENT CONTENT
S921
WAIT FOR INFORMATION TRANSMISSION
S922
DISPLAY THAT SAFETY MEASURE RELEASED
END

# CONTROL SYSTEM, TERMINAL DEVICE FOR MAINTENANCE WORKER AND CONTROL DEVICE

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

**[0001]** 1. Field of the Invention

**[0002]** The present invention relates to a control system for controlling a target device having an influence on safety of maintenance work, and a terminal device for maintenance worker and a control device included in the control system.

**[0003]** Priority is claimed on Japanese Patent Application No. 2011-002943, filed Jan. 11, 2011, the content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

**[0004]** 2. Description of Related Art

**[0005]** In maintenance work, safety measures, such as a measure for prohibiting entry into a transportation facility during maintenance work for a transportation system or a measure for prohibiting use of an elevator during maintenance work for an elevator system, are executed using a remote manipulation in order to secure safety of workers (maintenance workers).

**[0006]** For example, in a rail transportation system, maintenance work for devices installed in a railroad line area that is a train traveling area may be executed. In this case, a measure for securing the safety of workers is executed by an ordering person in an operation control center. Such a measure includes, for example, stop of power supply to equipment to which electrical power is supplied, such as wires, protection from entry of a train (entry prohibition) using control of signaling equipment, and a deceleration instruction for an opposite railroad line.

**[0007]** Further, a manhole opening and closing switch provided in a manhole that is an entrance of a machine room of a passenger conveyor apparatus (e.g., an escalator) is disclosed in Japanese Patent Application, First Publication No. 2008-1467. When the open manhole is detected by the opening and closing switch, the passenger conveyor apparatus does not accept a remote manipulation. Accordingly, start-up by a remote manipulation can be suppressed.

**[0008]** However, the safety measure by a remote manipulation as described above may cause the workers to have anxiety and to be in danger.

**[0009]** For example, in the rail transportation system, the workers may be in danger due to erroneous situation recognition or manipulation mistake of an ordering person in an operation control center, even if workers are performing maintenance work inside the railroad line area. That is, the safety measure may not be executed or an executed safety measure may be released. Further, the worker at a maintenance worksite may not directly confirm an execution situation of the safety measure. In this case, the worker may feel anxious about whether the safety measure has been executed or not.

**[0010]** On the other hand, a worker confirming an execution situation of a safety measure or performing execution and release of the safety measure may be considered. This prevents the worker from feeling anxious and being in danger. However, for a certain work target, the worker may not be allowed to confirm the execution situation of the safety measure or to perform execution and release of the safety measure or it may be inappropriate for the worker to perform the execution and release of the safety measure.

**[0011]** For example, in a rail transportation system, a measure for stopping power supply to power supply equipment such as the above-described wires may be executed. For this measure, a worker needs to move to a substation, turn a breaker off, and perform a manipulation, for example, to apply a string indicating manipulation prohibition to the breaker. Further, a measure such as protection from vehicle entry (entry prohibition) or a deceleration instruction may be executed by controlling signaling equipment as described above. For this measure, the worker needs to move to a signaling control room, perform a manipulation for changing a signal from a manipulation panel, and perform a manipulation, for example, to apply a string indicating prohibition of release of a changing manipulation using the manipulation panel. Thus, the worker needs to move to a device control room (e.g. the substation or the signaling control room) and perform a manipulation for executing the safety measure. However, such a movement is limited to a case in which the device control room is in the vicinity of the worksite. Further, when the worker is not familiar with a manipulation for executing the safety measure, the worker may be in danger due to his or her manipulation mistake.

**[0012]** Further, according to a technique disclosed in Japanese Patent Application, First Publication No. 2008-1467, malfunction (start-up) caused by a remote manipulation can be suppressed as described above. Therefore, it is possible to prevent the worker from becoming anxious due to erroneous situation recognition or a manipulation mistake of a person performing the remote manipulation and to prevent the worker from being in danger.

**[0013]** However, in the technique described in Japanese Patent Application, First Publication No. 2008-1467, a physical switch is provided in the vicinity of the worksite to block a remote manipulation. In the rail transportation system, there are a plurality of worksites in a wide region. In such a case, in order for the worker to block the remote manipulation at the worksite by providing the switch for blocking a remote manipulation, a great number of switches must be provided. Accordingly, the cost for installing and maintaining the switches is expensive. Further, when the worker forgets to manipulate of the switch after work ends, the remote manipulation cannot be performed. Thus, it may be practically impossible to appropriately operate a remote manipulation by appropriately managing and operating a great number of switches.

**[0014]** Thus, for a system having a plurality of worksites in a wide region, it is not realistic to apply a method of providing the switches for blocking the remote manipulation in the vicinity of the worksites, such as the technique described in Japanese Patent Application, First Publication No. 2008-1467.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

**[0015]** A control system according to a first aspect of the present invention includes a target device having an influence on safety of maintenance work; a control device for controlling the target device; and a terminal device (terminal device for maintenance worker) manipulated by a worker (maintenance worker) performing the maintenance work. The control device includes a control unit for controlling the target device to enter a first state (a maintenance-allowed state) in which the worker is allowed to safely perform the maintenance work; and a first communication unit (a communication unit of the control device) for performing communication. The terminal device includes a first input unit (a manipulation input unit of the terminal device for maintenance worker) for

receiving an input manipulation by the worker; a request generation unit (a lock request generation unit) for generating a request directed to the control device; and a second communication unit (a communication unit of the maintenance worker terminal device) for performing communication. The request generation unit generates a lock request to request the control device to maintain the first state in response to the input manipulation when the control unit controls the target device to enter the first state. The second communication unit transmits the lock request. The first communication unit receives the lock request. The control unit transitions to a lock state in which the control unit controls the target device to maintain the first state, based on the lock request received by the first communication unit.

**[0016]** In the above-described control system, the control device may include a second input unit (a manipulation input unit of the control device) for receiving an input manipulation by a worker. In this case, the first communication unit transmits a work instruction indicating the content of the maintenance work to the second communication unit according to the input manipulation received by the second input unit. After receiving the work instruction, the second communication unit transmits first information indicating that the worker has confirmed the work instruction to the control unit according to the input manipulation received by the first input unit. The control unit controls the target device to enter the first state based on the first information transmitted from the second communication unit.

**[0017]** In the above-described control system, when the control unit controls the target device to enter the first state, the first communication unit may transmit second information indicating the target device has entered the first state, to the second communication unit. In this case, after receiving the second information, the second communication unit transmits the lock request to the control device according to the input manipulation received by the first input unit. The control unit transitions to the lock state based on the lock request transmitted from the terminal device.

**[0018]** In the above-described control system, the first input unit may receive an input manipulation for lock request including personal identification code for identifying the worker. In this case, the second communication unit transmits the lock request including the personal identification code. The control unit transitions to the lock state when judging that the personal identification code included in the lock request is coincident with a previously registered personal identification code.

**[0019]** In the above-described control system, the first communication unit and the second communication unit may perform wireless communication.

**[0020]** In the above-described control system, after receiving the lock request, the second communication unit may transmit a release request to request release of the lock state according to the input manipulation received by the first input unit. In this case, the control unit releases the lock state based on the release request.

**[0021]** In the above-described control system, the first input unit may receive an input manipulation for a release request including an input of a personal identification code for identifying the worker. In this case, the second communication unit transmits the release request including the personal identification code to the control unit. The control unit releases the lock state when judging that the personal identification code included in the release request is coincident with a previously registered personal identification code.

**[0022]** In the above-described control system, the control device may include a second input unit for receiving an input manipulation by the worker. The control unit releases the lock state based on the input manipulation received by the second input unit.

**[0023]** A terminal device according to a second aspect of the present invention includes a communication unit for receiving information of a control device for controlling a target device having an influence on safety of maintenance work; and an input unit (manipulation input unit) for receiving an input manipulation. The communication unit receives information indicating that the control device controls the target device to enter a first state in which the maintenance work is safely performed, and transmits a lock request to the control device to request the control device to maintain the first state in response to the input manipulation received by the input unit, after receiving the information.

**[0024]** In the above-described terminal device, after receiving the lock request, the communication unit may transmit a release request to the control device to request release of the lock state according to the input manipulation received by the input unit.

**[0025]** A control device according to a third aspect of the present invention includes a control unit for controlling a target device having an influence on safety of maintenance work to enter a first state in which the maintenance work is safely performed; a communication unit for receiving a lock request to request to maintain the first state, and when controlling the target device to enter the first state. The control unit transitions to a lock state in which the control unit controls the target device to maintain the first state when the communication unit receives the lock request.

**[0026]** In the above-described control device, the communication unit may receive a release request to request release of the lock state. In this case, from the lock state, the control unit releases the lock state based on the release request when the communication unit receives the release request.

**[0027]** An object of the present invention is to provide a control system, a terminal device and a control device capable of reducing possibility of a worker being in danger without giving anxiety to the worker even in a system having a plurality of worksites in a wide region.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

**[0028]** FIG. **1** is a configuration diagram showing a schematic configuration of a rail transportation control system of an embodiment of the present invention.

**[0029]** FIG. **2** is a diagram showing an example of a work order displayed by a display unit of a terminal device of the embodiment.

**[0030]** FIG. **3** is a diagram showing an example of a PIN input screen displayed by the display unit of the terminal device of the embodiment.

**[0031]** FIG. **4** is a diagram showing an example of a PIN input screen displayed by the display unit of the terminal device of the embodiment.

**[0032]** FIG. **5** is a diagram showing an example of a screen displayed by a display unit of a central control device in a state in which the PIN lock is performed in the embodiment.

**[0033]** FIG. **6** is an illustrative diagram showing a data structure of safety measure management data stored in a storage unit of the embodiment.

**[0034]** FIG. **7** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system.

**[0035]** FIG. **8** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system.

**[0036]** FIG. **9** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system.

**[0037]** FIG. **10** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system.

**[0038]** FIG. **11** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system.

**[0039]** FIG. **12** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system.

**[0040]** FIG. **13** is a flowchart showing a process procedure performed by the central control device of the embodiment.

**[0041]** FIG. **14** is a flowchart showing a process procedure performed by the central control device of the embodiment.

**[0042]** FIG. **15** is a flowchart showing a process procedure performed by the central control device of the embodiment.

**[0043]** FIG. **16** is a flowchart showing a process procedure performed by the central control device of the embodiment.

**[0044]** FIG. **17** is a flowchart showing a process procedure performed by the central control device of the embodiment.

**[0045]** FIG. **18** is a flowchart showing a process procedure performed by the central control device of the embodiment.

**[0046]** FIG. **19** is a flowchart showing a process procedure performed by the terminal device of the embodiment.

**[0047]** FIG. **20** is a flowchart showing a process procedure performed by the terminal device of the embodiment.

**[0048]** FIG. **21** is a flowchart showing a process procedure performed by the terminal device of the embodiment.

**[0049]** FIG. **22** is a flowchart showing a process procedure performed by the terminal device of the embodiment.

**[0050]** FIG. **23** is a flowchart showing a process procedure performed by the terminal device of the embodiment.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

**[0051]** Hereinafter, an embodiment of the present invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

**[0052]** FIG. **1** is a configuration diagram showing a schematic configuration of a rail transportation control system in an embodiment of the present invention. In FIG. **1**, a rail transportation control system (control system) **1** includes a central control device (a control device) **100**, a terminal device (a terminal device of a maintenance worker) **200**, a power control device **910**, and a signaling control device **920**. The central control device **100** includes a display unit **110**, a manipulation input unit (second input unit) **120**, a communication unit (first communication unit) **130**, a storage unit **140**, a control information communication unit **150**, and a control unit **190**. The terminal device **200** includes a display unit **210**, a manipulation input unit (first input unit) **220**, a communication unit (second communication unit) **230**, a storage unit **240**, and a control unit (request generation unit or lock request generation unit) **290**.

**[0053]** The rail transportation control system **1** controls each unit of the rail transportation system, such as a power system or a signaling system. In particular, the rail transportation control system **1** controls the power control device **910** and the signaling control device **920** in maintenance work so that the maintenance work is safely performed.

**[0054]** The power control device **910** and the signaling control device **920** are examples of target devices controlled by the central control device **100**, respectively. Hereinafter, the power control device **910** and the signaling control device **920** are collectively referred to as a target device **900**.

**[0055]** The power control device **910** supplies electrical power to wires of a maintenance work area, which is an area where the maintenance work is performed. When the worker contacts the wires, the worker receives an electric shock. In this regard, the power control device **910** has an influence on the safety of the maintenance work.

**[0056]** Further, the signaling control device **920** controls the maintenance work area and a signaling device in the vicinity of the maintenance work area. During the maintenance work, when a display for approval of entry into the maintenance work area is performed on the signaling device by the signaling control device **920**, an electric train may enter the maintenance work area. In this regard, the signaling control device **920** has an influence on the safety of the maintenance work.

**[0057]** Here, the control unit **190** of the central control device **100** controls the power control device **910** and the signaling control device **920** in the maintenance work to enter a first state in which the maintenance work is safely performed (a maintenance-allowed state). In this case, the control unit **190** controls the power control device **910** not to supply electrical power to the wires of the maintenance work area. Further, the control unit **190** controls the signaling control device **920** so that the signaling control device **920** performs display of prohibition of entry into the maintenance work area on the signaling device.

**[0058]** Also, the target device controlled by the central control device **100** is not limited to a control device, such as the power control device **910** or the signaling control device **920** shown in FIG. **1**. The target device may be a device that performs state transition, which can be controlled by the central control device **100**. For example, the central control device **100** may directly control the signaling device. In this case, the signaling device is the target device. Alternatively, a switch machine may be the target device.

**[0059]** Further, the target device is not limited to a device that is a maintenance target. The maintenance work area and the device in the vicinity of the maintenance work area or various devices for controlling such a device may be the target devices. For example, when maintenance work for a railroad track (e.g., maintenance work for a rail or a switch machine) is performed, a control device for controlling the switch machine as the maintenance target, a signaling device for displaying whether entry into the maintenance work area in which the maintenance work for the railroad track is performed is allowed, a control device for controlling the signaling device, or the like may be the target device.

**[0060]** The central control device **100** is disposed in an operation control center (OCC), for controlling the rail transportation control system **1** in a centralized manner. In particular, the central control device **100** receives a request relating to control of the target device **900** from the terminal device **200**, and performs the above-described control on the target device **900** in response to the request.

**[0061]** The display unit **110** has a display screen such as a liquid crystal display or a plasma display, and displays an image, a character or the like under control of the control unit **190**. In particular, the display unit **110** displays a form of a work order, an approval request (information indicating that an instruction has been confirmed), or information on a control situation of the target device **900**, which will be described later.

**[0062]** The manipulation input unit **120** includes an input device, such as a keyboard, a mouse, or a push button for executing a safety measure, which will be described later, and receives an input manipulation by an ordering person in the operation control center (hereinafter, referred to simply as an "ordering person"). In particular, the manipulation input unit **120** receives an input manipulation to the form of the work order in a state in which the display unit **110** displays the form of the work order. Further, the manipulation input unit **120** receives an input of the result of confirming the approval request in a state in which the display unit **110** displays the approval request.

**[0063]** The communication unit **130** performs wireless communication with the communication unit **230** of the terminal device **200**.

**[0064]** The communication unit **130** performs exchange of various data with the communication unit **230**. For example, the communication unit **130** transmits the work order to the communication unit **230** and receives the approval request.

**[0065]** The storage unit **140** stores the form of the work order, various data such as management data for a safety measure indicating a state of control of the target device **900** by the central control device **100**, a program for realizing a function of the control unit **190**, or the like. Further, the storage unit **140** functions as a working memory of the control unit **190**.

**[0066]** The control information communication unit **150** transmits a corresponding control signal to the target device **900** under control of the control unit **190**. That is, the control unit **190** controls the target device **900** by transmitting the control signal to the target device **900** via the control information communication unit **150**.

**[0067]** The control unit **190** includes a CPU (Central Processing Unit) for reading and executing a program from the storage unit **140** and controls each unit of the central control device **100**. Further, the control unit **190** controls the target device **900** as described above and notifies the terminal device **200** of a control situation via the communication unit **130**.

**[0068]** The terminal device **200** is, for example, a portable PC (Personal Computer) or PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), and is carried by the worker at a worksite where the maintenance work is performed. The terminal device **200** transmits a request for PIN lock or a request for PIN lock release to the central control device **100** in response to a manipulation of the worker. Further, the terminal device **200** displays a situation of the safety measure by the central control device **100**, such as an indication of whether the PIN lock is made effective.

**[0069]** The display unit **210** has a display screen such as a liquid crystal display, and displays an image, a character or the like under control of the control unit **290**. In particular, the display unit **210** displays the work order, which will be described later, or information on a situation of the control of the target device **900** by the central control device **100**.

**[0070]** The manipulation input unit **220** has, for example, an input device such as a keyboard or a touch panel and receives an input manipulation of the worker. In particular, in a state in which the display unit **210** displays a work order as a form of an approval request for the maintenance work, the manipulation input unit **220** receives an input manipulation to the form of the approval request.

**[0071]** The communication unit **230** performs wireless communication with the communication unit **130** of the central control device **100**. The communication unit **230** performs exchange of various data with the communication unit **130**. For example, the communication unit **230** receives the work order from the communication unit **130** and transmits the approval request

**[0072]** The storage unit **240** stores various data such as data of a route map displayed by the display unit **210** in response to a request from the worker, programs for realizing functions of the control unit **290**, or the like. Further, the storage unit **240** functions as a working memory of the control unit **290**.

**[0073]** The control unit **290** is realized by the CPU included in the terminal device **200** reading and executing the program from the storage unit **240**, and controls each unit of the terminal device **200**. In particular, the control unit **290** generates a lock request to request the central control device **100** to maintain the first state (a state in which the safety measure is performed) or a release request (lock release request) to request the central control device **100** to release the first state in response to an input manipulation by the worker using the manipulation input unit **220**, and transmits the request to the central control device **100** via the communication unit **230**.

**[0074]** Next, screens displayed by the terminal device **200** or the central control device **100** will be described with reference to FIGS. **2** to **4**.

**[0075]** FIG. **2** is a diagram showing an example of the work order displayed by the display unit **210** of the terminal device **200**. When the communication unit **230** receives the work order transmitted from the central control device **100**, the display unit **210** displays the work order under control of the control unit **290**.

**[0076]** In FIG. **2**, the work order includes areas A**11** and A**12**.

**[0077]** The area A**11** is a display area for content of the maintenance work, and includes a display area A**111** for an identification code indicating a work category, a display area A**112** for a work supervisor name, a display area A**113** for a contact telephone number, a display area A**114** for a date of the maintenance work, a display area A**115** for a time of the maintenance work, a display area A**116** for a description of the work, and a display area A**117** for the location of the maintenance work.

**[0078]** Further, the area A**12** is a display area for a safety measure for the maintenance work, and includes a selection area A**121** for items of the safety measure requested by the worker (Required to change of setting), and a display area A**122** for special instruction/information. Further, in the area A**121**, a safety measure option requested by the worker, an option (Track closure required) for making a request to prohibit entry of a train, and an option (TSR required (25 km/h)) for requesting a speed restriction to restrict a train speed to be equal to or less than 25 km per hour, and an option (Power supply isolation) for requesting stop of power supply are displayed. Among these, the option for making a request to prohibit entry of a train and the option for requesting stop of power supply are selectable in the example shown in FIG. **2**.

**[0079]** The work order is also used as a form of an approval request to request approval of the maintenance work and execution of the safety measure.

**[0080]** For example, in a state in which the display unit **210** displays the work order of FIG. **2**, the worker confirms that there is no mistake or deficiency in each item shown in the area A**11** and then selects a necessary safety measure from the items displayed in the area A**121**.

**[0081]** The selection of the safety measure is performed, for example, by the worker touching the items of the necessary safety measure on the display screen of the display unit **210**.

When the item of the safety measure is touched, a location touched on the display screen is detected by a touch panel included in the manipulation input unit **220**. The manipulation input unit **220** outputs the detected location to the control unit **290**. The control unit **290** judges the selected item based on the location output from the manipulation input unit **220**, and inverts a display of a check box of the selected item. That is, when a check mark is not displayed, which indicates that the check box of the selected item has not been selected, a check mark is displayed in the check box. On the other hand, when the check mark is displayed, which indicates that the check box of the selected item has been checked, the check mark of the check box is removed.

**[0082]** After the worker performs the selection of the safety measure, the worker performs a manipulation to request approval. Then, the control unit **290** outputs the work order in which the safety measure has been selected, as an approval request, to the communication unit **230**. The manipulation to request approval is performed, for example, by the worker touching a button B**11** having an indication for requesting a request for approval (Request PTW) on the display screen of the display unit **210**.

**[0083]** The communication unit **230** transmits the request for approval output from the control unit **290** to the central control device **100**.

**[0084]** As will be described below, in the central control device **100**, the ordering person confirms the request for approval transmitted from the terminal device **200**. When the request for approval is accepted by the ordering person, the central control device **100** controls the target device **900** to enter the first state.

**[0085]** FIGS. **3** and **4** are diagrams showing examples of a PIN input screen displayed by the display unit **210** of the terminal device **200**. This PIN input screen is always displayed, for example, on the display unit **210**. In an area A**25** for selecting the screen displayed on the display unit **210**, the PIN input screen is displayed by the worker pushing the button B**21** for selecting the PIN input screen (touching the button B**21** on the screen).

**[0086]** FIG. **3** shows an example of the PIN input screen displayed in a state in which PIN lock is not performed.

**[0087]** Here, the PIN lock refers to a state in which the central control device **100** controls the target device **900** to maintain a first state in which the maintenance work can be safely performed and, in principle, the first state is not changed when the worker does not request to release the PIN lock. Also, the PIN lock is an example of a lock state in the present embodiment. The confirmation of a right upon transitioning to the lock state is not limited to use of the PIN (Personal Identification Number) of the worker and may be performed using, for example, biological information of the worker. Similarly, release of the PIN lock, which will be described, is an example of release of the lock state in the present embodiment.

**[0088]** The PIN input screen shown in FIG. **3** when the PIN lock is not performed is a screen on which a PIN is input when the worker requests the PIN lock.

**[0089]** In the PIN input screen shown in FIG. **3**, each of areas A**21** and A**22** indicates a safety measure that is being performed by the central control device **100**. The area A**21** indicates speed restriction in a 0301-0419 km section that is a designated section. Such a designated section is specified, for example, by a distance (kilometers) from a reference point of a start point and an end point of the designated section, which is used, for example, in a road or a railroad. The speed restriction indicates, for example, temporary speed restriction due to accidents. Further, the area A**22** indicates that power supply is OFF (stop of power supply) in a designated section, i.e., a 0320-0402 km section. As described in FIG. **2**, the safety measure is performed by the central control device **100** when the worker selects items from among the items of the safety measure indicated on the work order and the ordering person approves the selection (accepts the approval request).

**[0090]** Further, an icon C**21** is displayed in the area A**21** of the PIN input screen of FIG. **3**, and an icon C**22** is displayed in the area A**22**. The icons C**21** and C**22** indicate the safety measures that are being performed, respectively. The reference number corresponding to the work order is displayed in an area A**23**. As will be described below, the reference number corresponding to the work order is an identification number (ID Number) of the work order. The reference number corresponding to the work order is also used as an identification number of the maintenance work.

**[0091]** A manipulation for a request for PIN lock is performed by inputting the PIN. For example, the worker selects a PIN input area A**24** (touches the screen) and then inputs the PIN from the keyboard. The input PIN is displayed in the area A**24** by the control unit **290** and the display unit **210**. After completing the PIN input, the worker requests the PIN lock by pushing a lock request button B**22** for requesting the PIN lock (e.g., touches the display screen). Based on this request for PIN lock, the central control device **100** transitions to a PIN lock state, as will be described below.

**[0092]** FIG. **4** shows an example of the PIN input screen displayed in the state in which the PIN lock has been performed. This PIN input screen is a screen for inputting the PIN when the worker requests release of the PIN lock.

**[0093]** In the PIN input screen shown in FIG. **4**, the same reference numerals A**21**, A**22**, A**23**, A**24**, B**21**, C**21**, and C**22** are assigned to parts displaying the same content as the respective unit of FIG. **3**, and a description of the parts will be omitted.

**[0094]** Icons C**33** and C**34** indicate that the safety measure is PIN-locked.

**[0095]** The icon C**33** indicates that the safety measure displayed in the area A**21** is PIN-locked. Thus, in a state of FIG. **4** in which the icon C**34** has been displayed, in principle, the speed restriction indicated in the area A**21** continues to be performed, as long as the request for PIN lock release is not made by the worker.

**[0096]** Further, the icon C**34** indicates that the safety measure indicated in the area A**22** is PIN-locked. Thus, in a state of FIG. **4** in which the icon C**33** has been displayed, in principle, the state indicated in the area A**22** in which power supply is OFF is maintained, as long as the request for PIN lock release is not made by the worker.

**[0097]** Further, in FIG. **4**, an unlock request button B**32** for requesting the release of the PIN lock is displayed instead of the lock request button B**22** of FIG. **3**.

**[0098]** Similar to the manipulation for a request for PIN lock, a manipulation for a request for PIN lock release is performed by inputting the PIN. In the example of FIG. **4**, the worker requests the release of the PIN lock by inputting the PIN to the PIN input area A**24** and pressing the unlock request button B**32** (e.g., touching the display screen). Based on this request for PIN lock release, the central control device **100** releases the lock state as will be described below.

**[0099]** FIG. **5** is a diagram showing an example of the display screen of the display unit **110** of the central control device **100** in a state in which the PIN lock has been performed.

**[0100]** In FIG. **5**, a power supply situation in a maintenance work area and the vicinity of the maintenance work area is displayed in an area A**41**. A state in which power supply is OFF (power supply stops) in a section between × icons C**411** and C**413** is shown by displaying the × icons C**411** and C**413** and suppressing display brightness of a route between the × icons. The state in which the power supply is OFF is performed by the central control device **100** controlling the power control device **910**.

**[0101]** Further, an icon C**412** indicates that the state in which power supply is OFF in the section between the × icons C**411** and C**413** is PIN-locked.

**[0102]** Further, a diagram showing content of the maintenance work or an execution situation of the safety measure is displayed in an area A**42**.

**[0103]** An area A**421** is a display area for the execution situation of the safety measure, and the execution situation of the safety measure is displayed by icons C**421** to C**424**. The icon C**421** indicates speed restriction performed as the safety measure, similar to the icon C**21** (refer to FIG. **3**). The icon C**422** indicates the state in which the power supply is OFF, which is shown in the area A**41**. The icon C**423** indicates that the safety measure (speed restriction) indicated by the icon C**421** is PIN-locked, similar to the icon C**33** (refer to FIG. **4**). The icon C**424** indicates that the safety measure indicated by the icon C**422** (the state in which the power supply is OFF) is PIN-locked, similar to the icon C**34**.

**[0104]** An area A**422** is an area in which content of the maintenance work is displayed, and includes a display area A**431** for a name of a work supervisor, a display area A**432** a maintenance work location (Worksite), a display area A**433** for a maintenance work time (Worktime), a display area A**434** for an explanation of work (Work), and a display area A**435** for special instruction/information.

**[0105]** The terminal device **200** also displays the safety measure performed by the central control device **100** or presence or absence of the PIN lock.

**[0106]** Here, the terminal device **200** is a portable terminal device. The display screen of the terminal device **200** is smaller than that of the central control device **100**. Here, for example, the terminal device **200** displays the view selected from among the view of the area A**41** and the view of the area A**42** in response to a screen selection manipulation by the worker received by the manipulation input unit **220**.

**[0107]** Next, management data for safety measures stored in the storage unit **140** will be described with reference to FIG. **6**.

**[0108]** FIG. **6** is an illustrative diagram showing a data structure of the management data for safety measures stored in the storage unit **140**.

**[0109]** One row of the management data for safety measures shown in FIG. **6** corresponds to one maintenance work. Each row includes a first column for storing the reference number corresponding to the work order, a second column for storing the PIN, and a third column and subsequent columns for storing state information for respective safety measures.

**[0110]** The reference number corresponding to the work order stored in the first column is an identification number corresponding to the work order, for example, a serial number assigned to each work order. The work order is produced for each maintenance work, and the reference number corresponding to the work order is also used as an identification number of the maintenance work. As described below, when producing the work order, the control unit **190** adds a work instruction number to the work order. In this case, the control unit **190** stores the reference number corresponding to the work order in the storage unit **140** (writes the reference number corresponding to the work order to the first column of the management data for safety measure).

**[0111]** The PIN stored in the second column is an identification number for identifying the worker, as described above. Persons having a right to request the PIN lock described in FIG. **3** (authorized person) are limited to some persons for each maintenance work, such as the work supervisor, and PINs of all the authorized persons are stored in the PIN storage column. Specifically, when producing the work order, the ordering person determines a authorized person and inputs the PINs of all the authorized persons using the manipulation input unit **120**. The control unit **190** writes all the PINs received by the manipulation input unit **120** to the second column for storing the PIN, of the row for maintenance work as a target. As will be described below, this PIN indicates a destination of the work order. Further, the PIN stored in the second column is used when the control unit **190** judges whether there is a request for PIN lock from the authorized person upon receipt of the request for PIN lock.

**[0112]** The third column and subsequent columns for storing state information are provided for respective safety measures and store the execution situations of the safety measures.

**[0113]** Here, a zone to which the power control device **910** supplies electrical power is divided into some sections in advance. The ordering person determines whether the electrical power is to be supplied to each divided section. That is, the ordering person executes the safety measure in units of sections. Similarly, a zone in which the signaling control device **920** controls the signaling device is divided into some sections in advance. The ordering person determines content to be displayed on the signaling device for each divided section. That is, the ordering person executes the safety measure in units of section. Here, each row of the management data for safety measure has columns for storing state information for each divided section, that is, for each execution unit of the safety measure with respect to each of the power control device **910** and the signaling control device **920**.

**[0114]** Data indicating any of "NA," "Not yet," "Execute" and "Lock" is stored in each column for storing the state information according to the execution situation of the safety measure. Here, "NA" indicates that a corresponding safety measure is not performed in corresponding maintenance work, that is, the maintenance work is not a target of the safety measure. "Not yet" indicates a state in which the corresponding safety measure has not yet been performed. "Execute" indicates that the corresponding safety measure is being executed. "Lock" indicates that the corresponding safety measure has been PIN-locked.

**[0115]** Next, an overview of an operation of the rail transportation control system **1** will be described with reference to FIGS. **7** to **12**. FIGS. **7** to **12** are sequence diagrams showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system **1**.

**[0116]** FIG. **7** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system **1** in a process from the production of the work order in the central

control device **100** to the display of the safety measure by the central control device **100** and terminal device **200** being effective. The rail transportation control system **1** initiates the process of FIG. **7**, for example, when power equipment on the route fails.

**[0117]** First, in the central control device **100**, sequence S**101** is executed. Specifically, the manipulation input unit **120** receives a request to display a production form for the work order from the ordering person. Then, the control unit **190** reads the production form for the work order stored in the storage unit **140** and displays the production form on the display unit **110**.

**[0118]** Next, sequence S**102** is executed. Specifically, the manipulation input unit **120** receives a manipulation for inputting requirements by the ordering person for the production form for the work order displayed by the display unit **110**. The control unit **190** produces the work order based on the input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit **120**, adds the reference number corresponding to the work order to the work order, and outputs the work order to the communication unit **130**.

**[0119]** The sequence S**121** is executed. Specifically, the communication unit **130** transmits the work order output from the control unit **190**, together with the reference number corresponding to the work order, to the communication unit **230** of the terminal device **200**.

**[0120]** On the other hand, in the terminal device **200** carried by the worker at a maintenance worksite, sequence S**111** is executed. Specifically, the manipulation input unit **220** receives a manipulation for inputting a user ID and a password by the worker and outputs the manipulation to the control unit **290**. The control unit **290** performs a login process such as user authentication based on the user ID and the password. When the login is successful, sequence S**112** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** displays an initial screen on the display unit **110**. The display unit **110** displays, as the initial screen, for example, any one of a route map of a rail (an overall map or a detailed map of the vicinity of the maintenance work area), a view indicating information of a vehicle location on the route map, a view indicating an ON/OFF situation of power equipment, information of a current location of the terminal device (GPS (Global Positioning System) information), a worker schedule table, and a worker profile, or a combination thereof.

**[0121]** In the above-described sequence S**121**, when the communication unit **230** receives the work order transmitted from the central control device **100**, sequence S**122** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** displays the work order on the display unit **210**.

**[0122]** As described in FIG. **2**, the work order is also used as the form of the approval request to request approval of the maintenance work and the execution of the safety measure. Sequence S**123** is executed. Specifically, in a state in which the display unit **210** displays the work order as the form of the approval request, the manipulation input unit **220** receives an input manipulation for requirements of the approval request. Then, the control unit **290** produces the approval request based on the input received by the manipulation input unit **220**. Here, the input manipulation for requirements of the approval request is, for example, a manipulation for selecting the safety measure required for the maintenance work (a manipulation for touching the item shown in the area A**121** of FIG. **2**) described in FIG. **2**. Also, a matter to be input in the approval request is not limited to the selection of the safety measure described in FIG. **2**. For example, a check box may be provided for each item in the area A**11** of FIG. **2**, and the worker may confirm each item and check the check box. Further, a checklist for maintenance work preparation, such as whether a helmet is worn, may be included in the work order and checked by the worker.

**[0123]** Sequence S**124** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** outputs the approval request produced in sequence S**123** to the communication unit **230**, and the communication unit **230** transmits the approval request to the central control device **100**.

**[0124]** In the central control device **100**, when the communication unit **130** receives the approval request from the terminal device **200**, sequence S**125** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** displays the approval request on the display unit **110**. Sequence S**126** is executed. Specifically, the ordering person confirms the approval request displayed by the display unit **110**, judges whether there is no problem in content of the maintenance work or equipment, and performs a manipulation for inputting the confirmation result (the result of judging whether there is no problem) in the manipulation input unit **120**. In the example of FIG. **7**, the manipulation input unit **120** receives an input manipulation of the confirmation result indicating that there is no problem.

**[0125]** Sequence S**127** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** produces an acceptance notification for the approval request that is a notification indicating that there is no problem in the approval request, based on the input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit **120**, and outputs the acceptance notification to the communication unit **130**. The communication unit **130** transmits this acceptance notification to the terminal device **200**.

**[0126]** In the terminal device **200**, sequence S**131** is executed. Specifically, the communication unit **230** receives the acceptance notification from the central control device **100**, and the control unit **290** displays the acceptance notification on the display unit **210**.

**[0127]** Further, in the central control device **100**, sequence S**141** is executed. Specifically, after the acceptance notification is transmitted in sequence S**127**, the manipulation input unit **120** receives an input manipulation to instruct execution of the safety measure, and outputs information indicating the received input manipulation to the control unit **190**. For example, the manipulation input unit **120** has, in each given section, a push button for instructing to stop power supply, and receives pressing of the push button. The manipulation input unit **120** outputs information, for instructing to stop supply of electrical power to the section corresponding to the pressed push button, to the control unit **190**. Further, the manipulation input unit **120** has, in each given section, a push button for instructing vehicle entry prohibition and receives pressing of the push button. The manipulation input unit **120** outputs information for instructing vehicle entry prohibition into the section corresponding to the pressed push button, to the control unit **190**.

**[0128]** In the example of FIG. **7**, the ordering person presses the push button for instructing to stop power supply to a maintenance work area, and the push button for instructing prohibition of vehicle entry into the maintenance work area. The manipulation input unit **120** outputs instructions to stop power supply to the maintenance work area and instruction, prohibiting vehicle entry into the maintenance work area, to the control unit **190**.

**[0129]** The control unit **190** controls the target device **900** to enter the first state in which the maintenance work is safely performed, according to the information output from the manipulation input unit **120** (i.e., executes the safety measure).

**[0130]** In this case, the control unit **190** first executes sequence S**142**. Specifically, based on the information for instructing to stop power supply to a maintenance work area output from the manipulation input unit **120**, the power control device **910** transmits control information, for instructing to stop the power supply to the maintenance work area, to the power control device **910** via the control information communication unit **150**. Sequence S**144** is executed according to this control information. Specifically, the power control device **910** stops power supply to the designated section (the maintenance work area). Further, the control unit **190** executes sequence S**143**. Specifically, based on the information for instructing prohibition of vehicle entry into the maintenance work area output from the manipulation input unit **120**, the signaling control device **920** transmits control information for instructing signal display indicating prohibition of vehicle entry into the maintenance work area, to the signaling control device **920** via the control information communication unit **150**. According to this control information, the signaling control device **920** executes the sequence S**145**. Specifically, the signaling control device **920** controls the signaling device, which is a control target, to display prohibition of vehicle entry into the designated section (the maintenance work area).

**[0131]** The power control device **910** having completed the process of stopping power supply to the designated section in sequence S**144** executes sequence S**146**. Specifically, the power control device **910** outputs information indicating that the power supply has stopped, to the central control device **100**. Similarly, the signaling control device **920** having completed the process of making the signal display indicating vehicle entry prohibition to the designated section in sequence S**145** executes the sequence S**147**. Specifically, the signaling control device **920** outputs information indicating vehicle entry prohibition to the central control device **100**.

**[0132]** In the central control device **100**, sequence S**148** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** acquires the information transmitted from the target device **900** via the control information communication unit **150**. The control unit **190** transmits information, indicating that the safety measure is made effective, to the terminal device **200** via the communication unit **130**.

**[0133]** In the terminal device **200**, sequence S**151** is executed. Specifically, the communication unit **230** receives the information from the control unit **190** and outputs the information to the control unit **290**, and the control unit **290** displays that the safety measure is being executed, on the display unit **210**.

**[0134]** Further, the control unit **190** executes sequence S**152**. Specifically, based on the acquired information, the control unit **190** displays that the safety measure is being executed, on the display unit **110**. The display indicating that the safety measure is being executed is performed, for example, by changing the brightness of the route and displaying a × icon like the icon C**411** on the screen described in FIG. **5**.

**[0135]** FIG. **8** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system **1** when the central control device **100** performs PIN lock in response to a request for PIN lock from the terminal device **200** after the safety measure is made effective by the series of processes of FIG. **7**.

**[0136]** In the terminal device **200**, when the manipulation input unit **220** receives a request to display the PIN input screen, sequence S**161** is executed. Specifically, the display unit **210** displays the PIN input screen under control of the control unit **290**. As described above in FIGS. **3** and **4**, the PIN input screen is a screen for requesting PIN lock or the release of the PIN lock.

**[0137]** A sequence S**162** is then executed. Specifically, the manipulation input unit **220** receives a PIN input and a manipulation for requesting the PIN lock, and outputs the PIN and the request for PIN lock to the control unit **290**.

**[0138]** For example, the manipulation input unit **220** receives the PIN input from its keyboard and outputs the PIN to the control unit **290**. The control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display the PIN in the PIN input area (the area A**24** in FIG. **3**). The manipulation input unit **220** receives pressing of the lock request button (the button B**22** in FIG. **3**) and outputs a request for PIN lock to the control unit **290**.

**[0139]** Next, sequence S**163** is executed. Specifically, when the control unit **290** receives the request for PIN lock from the manipulation input unit **220**, the control unit **290** generates the request for PIN lock including the reference number corresponding to the work order included in the work order received in sequence S**121** (refer to FIG. **7**) and the PIN input in sequence S**162** and outputs the request for PIN lock to the communication unit **230**. The communication unit **230** transmits the request for PIN lock including the reference number corresponding to the work order and the PIN to the central control device **100**.

**[0140]** In the central control device **100**, sequence S**164** is executed. Specifically, the communication unit **130** receives the request for PIN lock including the reference number corresponding to the work order and the PIN and outputs the request for PIN lock to the control unit **190**. The control unit **190** judges whether the request for PIN lock is from the person having a right to request PIN lock based on the reference number corresponding to the work order and the PIN included in the request for PIN lock.

**[0141]** Specifically, as described in FIG. **6**, authorized persons having a right to request PIN lock are limited to some persons for each maintenance work. The storage unit **140** stores the reference number corresponding to the work order and PINs of all the authorized persons to correspond to each other in advance. The control unit **190** having acquired the request for PIN lock from the communication unit **130** reads the reference number corresponding to the work order from the acquired request for PIN lock, and reads the PIN corresponding to the read reference number corresponding to the work order from the management data for safety measure stored in the storage unit **140**. Further, the control unit **190** reads the PIN from the request for PIN lock, and compares the PIN read from the request for PIN lock to the PIN read from the storage unit **140**. If the PIN read from the request for PIN lock is coincident with the PIN read from the storage unit **140**, the control unit **190** judges that the request for PIN lock is from the person having a right to request PIN lock. On the other hand, if the PIN read from the request for PIN lock is not coincident with the PIN read from the storage unit **140**, the control unit **190** judges that the request for PIN lock is from a person having no right to request PIN lock.

**[0142]** Here, a closed PIN enables each worker to input only his or her own PIN. Accordingly, the PIN may be used as a password to request PIN lock or the release of the PIN lock.

**[0143]** Next, sequence S**165** is executed. Specifically, when the control unit **190** judges that the request for PIN lock is from the person having a right to request PIN lock, the control unit **190** transitions to a PIN lock state. The transition to the PIN lock state is performed by the control unit **190** rewriting a value of the column for storing the state information, of the management data for safety measure stored in the storage unit **140**, to be "lock."

**[0144]** In the present embodiment, the control unit **190** causes all safety measures required for the corresponding maintenance work to be in a PIN lock state based on one request for PIN lock. However, unlike this embodiment, the terminal device **200** may transmit a request for PIN lock for each safety measure and the control unit **190** may perform the PIN lock for each safety measure. Similarly, for the release of the PIN lock, the terminal device **200** may transmit the request for PIN lock release for each safety measure and the control unit **190** may perform the release of the PIN lock for each safety measure. Accordingly, it is possible to minimize influence on the transportation system, for example, by executing only a necessary safety measure at a necessary timing while managing a plurality of works, such as maintenance check for a power system, in a plurality of areas, as one collective maintenance work.

**[0145]** Next, sequence S**166** is executed. Specifically, after performing the transition to the PIN lock state, the control unit **190** controls the display unit **110** to display that the PIN lock is made effective. The display that the PIN lock is made effective is performed, for example, by the display unit **110** displaying icons indicating the PIN lock state (icons C**412**, C**423** and C**424**) on the display screen, as described above in FIG. **5**.

**[0146]** Further, sequence S**167** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** outputs information indicating that the PIN lock is made effective to the communication unit **130**, and the communication unit **130** transmits the information to the terminal device **200**.

**[0147]** Next, sequence S**168** is executed. Specifically, in the terminal device **200**, the communication unit **230** receives the information indicating that the PIN lock is made effective and outputs the information to the control unit **290**. The control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display that the PIN lock is made effective. The display that the PIN lock is made effective is performed, for example, by the display unit **210** displaying the icons indicating the PIN lock state (icons C**412**, C**423**, and C**424**) when displaying the view of each area in FIG. **5**, as described in FIG. **5**.

**[0148]** After confirming that the PIN lock is made effective on the terminal device **200**, the worker executes the maintenance work.

**[0149]** Thus, the central control device **100** transitions to the PIN lock state, which is a state in which the first state is maintained, in response to the request from the terminal device **200**. When the central control device **100** transitions to the PIN lock state, the terminal device **200** displays that the PIN lock is made effective.

**[0150]** Accordingly, the central control device **100**, in principle, cannot release the safety measure when there is no request from the terminal device **200**, that is, from the worker. The central control device **100** displays this state on the terminal device **200**. Therefore, it is possible to prevent the safety measure from being released due to erroneous situation recognition or manipulation mistake of the ordering person in the operation control center and to prevent the worker from being in danger. That is, it is possible to reduce the possibility of the worker being in danger.

**[0151]** Further, since the worker can confirm that the safety measure is maintained, it is possible to reduce the anxiety of the worker. Further, since the worker can initiate the maintenance work after confirming that the safety measure is maintained, it is possible to prevent the safety measure from not being performed due to erroneous situation recognition or manipulation mistake of the ordering person and to prevent the worker from being in danger.

**[0152]** Although the PIN lock and the release of the PIN lock are, in principle, performed in response to the request from the terminal device **200**, the PIN lock or the release of the PIN lock may be exceptionally performed by manipulating the central control device **100**, to cope with a case in which communication is not possible due to failure or battery shortage of the terminal device **200** or poor radio conditions, or when a authorized person making a request for PIN lock is absent or a request to release the PIN lock (e.g., when a authorized person requesting the PIN lock is not included in the workers).

**[0153]** FIG. **9** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system **1** when the PIN lock is performed by manipulating the central control device **100** after the safety measure is made effective through the series of processes of FIG. **7**. Hereinafter, the PIN lock performed by manipulating the central control device **100** is referred to as "PIN lock using a master key."

**[0154]** The sequence S**181** is the same as sequence S**161** (refer to FIG. **8**). However, the display unit **210** displays, on the PIN input screen, a mail transmission button for providing a means for sending E-mail to the ordering person in the operation control center so that the PIN lock is requested without inputting the PIN, in addition to the lock request button B**22** described in FIG. **3**.

**[0155]** Next, sequence S**182** is executed. Specifically, when a authorized person who requests the PIN lock is absent, the worker presses the mail transmission button (e.g., touches the screen) as a manipulation for requesting the PIN lock using the master key. The manipulation input unit **220** receives this button manipulation. Next, sequence S**183** is executed, in which the control unit **290** provides the mail transmission means. Specifically, the control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display a screen for producing E-mail, and produces the E-mail according to a character input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit **220**. When the manipulation input unit **220** receives the E-mail transmission manipulation, the control unit **290** transmits the E-mail to the central control device **100** via the communication unit **230**.

**[0156]** A method of making the request for PIN lock using a master key is not limited to a method of using the above-described E-mail transmission. For example, the worker may make a voice call with the ordering person using a telephone device independent from the rail transportation control system **1** to make a request of PIN lock using a master key.

**[0157]** In the central control device **100**, sequence S**184** is executed. Specifically, when the communication unit **130** receives the E-mail from the terminal device **200**, the display unit **110** displays the E-mail to request the ordering person to confirm the E-mail. Accordingly, the request for PIN lock using a master key is displayed.

**[0158]** Then, in sequence S**185**, the manipulation input unit **120** receives a manipulation for the PIN lock using the master key. Then, in sequence S**186**, the control unit **190** transitions to the PIN lock state according to the manipulation. For example, the manipulation input unit **120** receives an input of the reference number corresponding to the work order by the ordering person. The control unit **190** rewrites the value of the column for storing the state information in the management data for safety measure described in FIG. **6** from "Execute" to "Lock" according to the reference number corresponding to the work order received by the manipulation input unit **120**.

**[0159]** Here, since the PIN lock is a process of maintaining the safety measure, usually, the worker is not in danger even when the PIN lock using the master key is performed. Here, the PIN lock using the master key can be performed by a simple process, compared to release of the PIN lock which will be described later.

**[0160]** Hereinafter, sequences S**187** to S**189** are the same as the sequences S**166** to S**168** in FIG. **8**.

**[0161]** Thus, the central control device **100** can perform PIN lock by receiving the request for PIN lock using the master key even in a state in which communication is not possible due to failure or battery shortage of the terminal device **200** or poor radio conditions, or when a authorized person making a request for PIN lock is absent. Accordingly, it is possible to reduce the anxiety of the worker and to reduce the possibility of the worker being in danger.

**[0162]** FIG. **10** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system **1** when the central control device **100** releases the PIN lock in response to the request to release the PIN lock from the terminal device **200** after the PIN lock is made effective by the series of manipulations of FIG. **8** or **9**.

**[0163]** First, sequence S**201** is executed. Specifically, when the worker completes the maintenance work, the worker makes a request to display a screen for inputting a PIN in order to request the release of the PIN lock. When the manipulation input unit **220** receives this request, the display unit **210** displays the screen for inputting a PIN under control of the control unit **290**.

**[0164]** Next, sequence S**202** is executed. Specifically, the manipulation input unit **220** receives the PIN and a manipulation for requesting release of the PIN lock, and outputs the PIN input and the request for PIN lock to the control unit **290**.

**[0165]** For example, the manipulation input unit **220** receives the PIN input from its keyboard and outputs the PIN to the control unit **290**. The control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display the PIN in the PIN input area (the area A**24** in FIG. **4**). The manipulation input unit **220** receives a manipulation of the unlock request button (the button B**32** in FIG. **4**), and outputs a request to release the PIN lock to the control unit **290**.

**[0166]** Next, sequence S**203** is executed. Specifically, when the control unit **290** receives the request to release the PIN lock from the manipulation input unit **220**, the control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display, for a given time, an alert indicating that the safety measure may be released. This display of the alert is performed to allow time to confirm that there is no problem even when the safety measure is released and time to take a measure required for securing safety, as necessary, to the worker.

**[0167]** Next, sequence S**204** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** generates a request for PIN lock release including the reference number corresponding to the work order included in the work order received in sequence S**121** (refer to FIG. **7**) and the PIN input in sequence S**202**, and outputs the request for PIN lock release to the communication unit **230**. The communication unit **230** transmits the request for PIN lock release including the reference number corresponding to the work order and the PIN to the central control device **100**.

**[0168]** In the central control device **100**, sequence S**205** is executed. Specifically, the communication unit **130** receives the request for PIN lock release including the reference number corresponding to the work order and the PIN and outputs the request for PIN lock release to the control unit **190**. The control unit **190** judges whether the release request is from a person having a right to request a release, based on the reference number corresponding to the work order and the PIN included in the request for PIN lock release.

**[0169]** More specifically, similar to the description in sequence S**164** (refer to FIG. **8**), the control unit **190** reads a PIN of a person having a right to request PIN lock release from the management data for safety measure stored in the storage unit **140** based on the reference number corresponding to the work order included in the request for PIN lock release. The control unit **190** judges whether the release request is from a person having a right to request PIN lock release based on whether the PIN read from the request for PIN lock release is included in the PIN read from the storage unit **140**.

**[0170]** When the control unit **190** judges in sequence S**205** that the release request output from the communication unit **130** is from a person having a right to request PIN lock release, sequence S**206** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** releases the PIN lock by transitioning to an unlock state in which the PIN lock is not performed. The transition to the unlock state is performed by the control unit **190** rewriting the value of the column for storing the state information of the management data for safety measure stored in the storage unit **140** to be "Execute." Here, the above-described "Execute" is a value indicating that the safety measure is being executed, but the PIN lock is not performed.

**[0171]** Next, sequence S**207** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** controls the display unit **110** to display that the PIN lock has been released after transitioning to the unlock state. The display of the PIN lock being released is performed, for example, by the display unit **110** clearing (not displaying) the icons indicating the PIN lock state (e.g. the icons C**412**, C**423** and C**424** in FIG. **5**) from the display screen.

**[0172]** Next, sequence S**208** is executed. Specifically, further, the control unit **190** outputs information indicating that the PIN lock has been released to the communication unit **130** and the communication unit **130** transmits the information to the terminal device **200**.

**[0173]** In the terminal device **200**, sequence S**209** is executed. Specifically, the communication unit **230** receives the information indicating that the PIN lock has been released and outputs the information to the control unit **290**. The control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display that the PIN lock has been released. The display that the PIN lock has been released is performed, for example, by the display unit **210** clearing (not displaying) the icons indicating the PIN lock state (icons C**412**, C**423** and C**424**) when displaying the view of each area in FIG. **5**.

**[0174]** After confirming that the PIN lock has been released, the worker performs a manipulation to request to

display a form reporting the work completion in the manipulation input unit **220**. This form enables the worker to produce a work completion report for the performed maintenance work.

**[0175]** The work completion report includes, for example, items for safety confirmation, such as a check item indicating whether all workers have been evacuated.

**[0176]** Next, sequence S**210** is executed. Specifically, when the manipulation input unit **220** receives a manipulation to request to display the form of the work completion report, the control unit **290** reads the form of the work completion report stored in the storage unit **240** in advance in response to the request. The control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display the form of the work completion report.

**[0177]** Next, sequence S**211** is executed. Specifically, the manipulation input unit **220** receives a manipulation for inputting requirements to a form of the work completion report. The control unit **290** produces the work completion report according to the input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit **220**. Next, sequence S**212** is executed. Specifically, when the manipulation input unit **220** receives a manipulation to transmit the work completion report, the control unit **290** transmits the produced work completion report to the central control device **100** via the communication unit **230**.

**[0178]** As described above, the PIN lock and the release of the PIN lock are, in principle, performed in response to the request from the terminal device **200**. However, a case in which communication is not possible due to failure or battery shortage of the terminal device **200** or poor radio conditions may be considered. Also, a case in which a authorized person making a request for PIN lock or PIN lock release is absent is considered. To cope with such cases, exceptionally, the PIN lock or the release of the PIN lock may be performed by manipulating the central control device **100**.

**[0179]** FIG. **11** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system **1** when the PIN lock is released by manipulating the central control device **100** after the PIN lock is made effective by the series of manipulations of FIG. **8** or **9**. Hereinafter, release of the PIN lock performed by manipulating the central control device **100** is referred to as "PIN lock release using master key."

**[0180]** Sequence S**221** is the same as sequence S**201** (refer to FIG. **10**). However, the display unit **210** displays, on a PIN input screen, a mail transmission button providing a mail transmission means for the ordering person in the operation control center in order to request the release of the PIN lock without inputting the PIN, in addition to the button B**32** for requesting lock release described in FIG. **4**.

**[0181]** Next, sequence S**222** is executed. Specifically, when a authorized person who requests the release of the PIN lock is absent, the worker presses the mail transmission button (e.g., touches the screen) as a manipulation for a request for PIN lock release using a master key. The manipulation input unit **220** receives this manipulation. Subsequently, sequence S**223** is executed, and the control unit **290** provides the mail transmission means, similar to the description in sequence S**183** (refer to FIG. **9**).

**[0182]** Also, a method of making a request to release the PIN lock using the master key is not limited to a method of using the above-described E-mail transmission. For example, the worker may make a voice call with the ordering person using a telephone device independent from the rail transportation control system **1**, to request the release of the PIN lock using a master key.

**[0183]** In the central control device **100**, sequence S**224** is executed. Specifically, when the communication unit **130** receives the E-mail from the terminal device **200**, the display unit **110** displays the E-mail to request the ordering person to confirm the E-mail. Accordingly, the PIN lock release request using the master key is displayed.

**[0184]** Then, in sequence S**225**, the manipulation input unit **120** receives the manipulation for PIN lock release using the master key. Then, in sequence S**226**, the control unit **190** performs a process of confirming that a given procedure is executed. The given procedure cited herein is a procedure of confirming that a risk is not generated even when the PIN lock is released and the safety measure is released.

**[0185]** For example, the control unit **190** reads a message "Send staff and confirm safety of the worksite, please." stored in the storage unit **140** in advance, and controls the display unit **110** to display this message. The ordering person reading this message goes to the maintenance work area or contacts a work base closest to the maintenance work area through a telephone to request safety confirmation. After the safety confirmation is completed, the ordering person performs a manipulation for indicating completion of the safety confirmation in the manipulation input unit **120**.

**[0186]** Next, sequence S**227** is executed. After confirming that the given procedure has been executed, the control unit **190** releases the PIN lock state. For example, in a release manipulation in sequence S**225**, the manipulation input unit **120** receives an input of the reference number corresponding to the work order by the ordering person, and the control unit **190** rewrites the value of the column for storing the state information in the management data for safety measure described in FIG. **6** from "Lock" to "Execute" according to the reference number corresponding to the work order.

**[0187]** Hereinafter, sequences S**228** to S**233** are the same as sequences S**207** to S**212** in FIG. **10**.

**[0188]** Thus, the central control device **100** receives a request for PIN lock release using the master key. This enables the PIN lock to be released even in a state in which communication is not possible due to failure or battery shortage of the terminal device **200** or poor radio conditions, or when a authorized person making a request for PIN lock release is absent. The safety measure can be released according to the release of the PIN lock, such that the rail transportation control system **1** can be restored.

**[0189]** FIG. **12** is a sequence diagram showing an example of operation of the rail transportation control system **1** when the central control device **100** releases the safety measure after the PIN lock is released by the series of manipulations in FIG. **10** or **11**.

**[0190]** In sequence S**212** of FIG. **10** or sequence S**233** of FIG. **11**, when the communication unit **130** receives the transmitted work completion report, the control unit **190** controls the display unit **110** to display the work completion report, as shown as sequence S**261**.

**[0191]** As described above, the safety confirmation item is included in the work completion report. Thus, the ordering person may perform safety confirmation by referencing the displayed work completion report, and judge whether the safety measure is allowed to be released. Here, the ordering person confirms the work completion report displayed by the display unit **110**, judges whether there is no problem, and

performs an input manipulation for the confirmation result (the result of judging whether there is no problem) in the manipulation input unit **120**. In the example of FIG. **12**, in sequence S**262**, the manipulation input unit **120** receives a manipulation for inputting the confirmation result indicating that there is no problem.

**[0192]** Next, sequence S**263** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** generates an acceptance notification for the work completion report, which is a notification indicating that there is no problem in the work completion report, based on the input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit **120**, and outputs the acceptance notification to the communication unit **130**. The communication unit **130** transmits this acceptance notification to the terminal device **200**.

**[0193]** The terminal device **200** executes sequence S**264**. Specifically, the communication unit **230** receives the acceptance notification from the central control device **100**, and the control unit **290** displays the acceptance notification on the display unit **210**.

**[0194]** Next, sequence S**265** is executed. Specifically, the manipulation input unit **120** receives an input manipulation for instructing the release of the safety measure from the ordering person having confirmed the safety, based on the work completion report. The manipulation input unit **120** outputs information indicating the received input manipulation to the control unit **190**. For example, the manipulation input unit **120** has, in each given section, a push button for instructing resumption of power supply, and receives pressing of the push button. The manipulation input unit **120** outputs information for instructing resumption of power supply to the section corresponding to the pressed push button, to the control unit **190**. The manipulation input unit **120** has, in each given section, a push button for instructing to release vehicle entry prohibition, and receives pressing of the push button. The manipulation input unit **120** outputs information for instructing to release vehicle entry prohibition into the section corresponding to the pressed push button, to the control unit **190**.

**[0195]** In the example of FIG. **12**, the ordering person presses the push button for instructing resumption of power supply to the maintenance work area and the push button for instructing to release prohibition of vehicle entry into the maintenance work area. The manipulation input unit **120** outputs the information indicating resumption of power supply to the maintenance work area and information for instructing to release prohibition of vehicle entry into the maintenance work area to the control unit **190**.

**[0196]** The control unit **190** controls the target device **900** to release the first state and enter a normal state (i.e., releases the safety measure) according to the information output from the manipulation input unit **120**. In this case, the control unit **190** judges whether the PIN lock for the safety measure as a release target is released for all maintenance works by referencing the management data for safety measure stored in the storage unit **140**, and releases the safety measure only when it is judged that the PIN lock has been released in all the maintenance works.

**[0197]** That is, when a plurality of maintenance works are performed, the safety measure needs to be continued to secure the safety of the worker when the PIN lock is made effective in other maintenance works even when the PIN lock is released in one maintenance work. Here, the control unit **190** releases the safety measure only when the PIN lock is released in all the maintenance works.

**[0198]** Specifically, the control unit **190** acquires information indicating resumption of power supply to the maintenance work area. Then, the control unit **190** judges whether there is a row whose value of the column for storing the state information is "locked" for the stop of power supply to the maintenance work area indicated by the acquired information, by referencing the management data for safety measure. For example, there is a case in which the safety measure **3** in FIG. **6** corresponds to the stop of the power supply to the maintenance work area. In this case, the control unit **190** judges whether there is a column whose value is "Lock" by referencing all the columns for storing the state information in the column of this safety measure **3**.

**[0199]** When it is judged that there is no row whose value is "locked," the control unit **190** performs a process of resuming the power supply. On the other hand, when it is judged that there is a row whose value is "locked," for example, the control unit **190** performs a next process. The control unit **190** controls the display unit **110** to display the reference number corresponding to the work order at a row whose value is "Lock" and a message indicating that the safety measure cannot be released.

**[0200]** When the control unit **190** judges that there is no row whose value is "locked," sequence S**266** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** transmits control information for instructing the power control device **910** to resume power supply to the maintenance work area, to the power control device **910** via the control information communication unit **150**. Sequence S**271** is executed according to this control information. Specifically, the power control device **910** resumes power supply to the designated section (maintenance work area) according to the control information transmitted by the control unit **190**.

**[0201]** Similarly, the control unit **190** acquires the information for instructing to release prohibition of vehicle entry into the maintenance work area. The control unit **190** then references the management data for safety measure. The control unit **190** judges whether there is a row whose value of the column for storing the state information is "locked" for prohibition of vehicle entry into the maintenance work area indicated by the acquired information.

**[0202]** When the control unit **190** judges that there is no row whose value is "locked," sequence S**267** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** transmits control information, for instructing the signaling control device **920** to release signal display for prohibiting vehicle entry into the maintenance work area, to the signaling control device **920** via the control information communication unit **150**. Sequence S**272** is executed according to this control information. Specifically, the signaling control device **920** releases control to instruct the signaling device as the control target to display a signal for prohibiting vehicle entry into the designated section (the maintenance work area) according to the control information transmitted from the control unit **190**.

**[0203]** Next, sequence S**273** is executed. Specifically, the power control device **910** having completed the process of resuming power supply to the designated section in sequence S**271** outputs information indicating that the power supply has been resumed to the central control device **100**. Similarly, sequence S**274** is executed. Specifically, the signaling control device **920** having completed the process of releasing signal display for prohibiting vehicle entry into the designated sec-

tion in sequence S**272** outputs information indicating that vehicle entry prohibition has been released, to the central control device **100**.

**[0204]** In the central control device **100**, sequence S**275** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** acquires the information transmitted from the target device **900**, via the control information communication unit **150**. The control unit **190** transmits the information indicating that the safety measure has been released, to the terminal device **200** via the communication unit **130** based on the acquired information.

**[0205]** In the terminal device **200**, sequence S**291** is executed. Specifically, the communication unit **230** receives the information from the control unit **190** and outputs the information to the control unit **290**, and the control unit **290** displays that the safety measure has been released, on the display unit **210**.

**[0206]** Further, in sequence S**281**, the control unit **190** displays that the safety measure has been released, on the display unit **110**. This display that the safety measure has been released is performed, for example, by restoring the brightness of the route to normal brightness and deleting the × icon such as the icon C**411** (not displaying) on the screen shown in FIG. **5**.

**[0207]** The control unit **190** then controls the display unit **210** to close the display window of the work order according to the manipulation received by the manipulation input unit **220**.

**[0208]** Next, an operation of the central control device **100** will be described with reference to FIGS. **13** to **18**. FIGS. **13** to **18** are flowcharts showing a process procedure performed by the central control device **100**.

**[0209]** FIG. **13** is a flowchart showing an overview of a process procedure performed by the central control device **100**. The central control device **100** performs the process of FIG. **13** for each maintenance work when the maintenance work is necessary due to an accident or regularly scheduled maintenance.

**[0210]** First, in step S**401**, the central control device **100** produces a work order according to the manipulation of the ordering person and transmits the work order to the terminal device **200**. Next, in step S**402**, the central control device **100** executes the safety measure according to the approval request transmitted from the terminal device **200**. Then, in step S**403**, the central control device **100** performs PIN lock in response to the request for PIN lock transmitted from the terminal device **200** or PIN lock using the master key. In step S**404**, the central control device **100** releases the PIN lock in response to the request for PIN lock release transmitted from the terminal device **200** after maintenance work completion or PIN lock release using the master key. Then, in step S**405**, the central control device **100** releases the safety measure.

**[0211]** FIG. **14** is a flowchart showing a process procedure in which the central control device **100** produces a work order according to a manipulation of the ordering person and transmits the work order to the terminal device **200**. The process of FIG. **14** is performed in step S**401** (refer to FIG. **13**).

**[0212]** First, step S**421** is executed. Specifically, in the central control device **100**, when the manipulation input unit **120** receives a request to display a production form for the work order from the ordering person, the control unit **190** reads the production form for the work order stored in the storage unit **140** and displays the production form on the display unit **110**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**101** (refer to FIG. **7**).

**[0213]** Next, in step S**422**, the manipulation input unit **120** receives a manipulation by the ordering person for inputting requirements to the production form for the work order displayed by the display unit **110**. PINs of a person having a right to make a request for PIN lock and a person having a right to make a request for PIN lock release are included in the requirements received by the manipulation input unit **120**. The person having a right to make a request for PIN lock and the person having a right to make a request for PIN lock release may be one person or a plurality of persons. Further, the person having a right to make a request for PIN lock and the person having a right to make a request for PIN lock release may be the same or different.

**[0214]** In step S**423**, the control unit **190** produces the work order according to the input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit **120**, adds the reference number corresponding to the work order to the produced work order, and outputs the resultant work order to the communication unit **130**. The process of steps S**422** and S**423** corresponds to the process of sequence S**102**.

**[0215]** In step S**424**, the communication unit **130** transmits the work order output from the control unit **190** together with the number of the work number to the communication unit **230** of the terminal device **200**. Here, the control unit **190** transmits the work order together with the reference number corresponding to the work order to the terminal device **200** held by the person having a right to make a request for PIN lock and the person having a right to make a request for PIN lock release, based on the PIN input in step S**422**. Even in the following description, transmission from the control unit **190** to the terminal device **200** is performed on the terminal device **200** held by the person having a right to make a request for PIN lock and the person having a right to make a request for PIN lock release. The process of step S**402** corresponds to the process of sequence S**103**.

**[0216]** Then, the process in FIG. **14** ends and the procedure proceeds to step S**402** (refer to FIG. **13**).

**[0217]** FIG. **15** is a flowchart showing a process procedure in which the central control device **100** performs a safety measure. The process in FIG. **15** is performed in step S**402** (refer to FIG. **13**).

**[0218]** First, in step S**441**, the communication unit **130** waits for the approval request to be transmitted from the terminal device **200**. In step S**442**, when the communication unit **130** receives the approval request from the terminal device **200**, the control unit **190** displays the approval request on the display unit **110**. The process of steps S**441** and S**442** corresponds to the process of sequence S**125** (refer to FIG. **7**).

**[0219]** Then, in step S**443**, the manipulation input unit **120** waits for a manipulation by the ordering person for inputting the result of confirming the approval request. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**126**.

**[0220]** When the manipulation input unit **120** receives the input manipulation for the confirmation result, the control unit **190** judges whether there is a problem in the input confirmation result in step S**444**. For example, when the ordering person inputs "OK" using the keyboard included in the manipulation input unit **120**, the control unit **190** judges that there is no problem in the confirmation result. That is, the judgment in step S**444** is YES. On the other hand, when the ordering person inputs "NG" and then inputs deficient content, the control unit **190** judges that the confirmation result has a problem. That is, the judgment in step S**444** is NO.

**[0221]** When the control unit **190** determines in step S**444** that the confirmation result has a problem, that is, when the judgment in step S**444** is NO, the control unit **190** outputs the deficient content included in the confirmation result to the communication unit **130** in step S**451**. The communication unit **130** transmits the deficient content to the terminal device **200**. Then, the procedure returns to step S**441**, in which the communication unit **130** waits for the approval request to be retransmitted from the terminal device **200**.

**[0222]** On the other hand, when the control unit **190** judges in step S**444** that the confirmation result has no problem, that is, when the judgment in step S**444** is YES, the control unit **190** outputs an acceptance notification indicating that there is no problem in the approval request to the communication unit **130**. In step S**461**, the communication unit **130** transmits the acceptance notification to the terminal device **200**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**127**.

**[0223]** Then, in step S**462**, the manipulation input unit **120** waits for a manipulation by the ordering person for instructing execution of safety measure. When the manipulation input unit **120** receives the input manipulation for instructing execution of the safety measure, the manipulation input unit **120** outputs information indicating the received input manipulation to the control unit **190**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**141**.

**[0224]** In step S**463**, the control unit **190** controls the target device **900** to enter the first state in which the maintenance work is safely performed (i.e., executes the safety measure) according to the information output from the manipulation input unit **120**. This process corresponds to the process of sequences S**142** to S**145**.

**[0225]** Then, in step S**464**, the control unit **190** detects that the safety measure is made effective based on the information transmitted from the target device **900**, and transmits information, indicating that the safety measure is made effective, to the terminal device **200** via the communication unit **130**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**148**.

**[0226]** Further, in step S**465**, the control unit **190** displays that the safety measure is being executed, on the display unit **110**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**152**.

**[0227]** Then, the process of FIG. **15** ends and the procedure proceeds to step S**403** (refer to FIG. **13**).

**[0228]** FIG. **16** is a flowchart showing a process procedure in which the central control device **100** performs PIN lock. The process in FIG. **16** is performed in step S**403** (refer to FIG. **13**).

**[0229]** First, in step S**501**, the communication unit **130** receives a request for PIN lock from the terminal device **200**. When the communication unit **130** receives the request for PIN lock from the terminal device **200**, the communication unit **130** outputs the request for PIN lock to the control unit **190**. Meanwhile, the manipulation input unit **120** receives a manipulation using a master key for requesting the PIN lock. When the manipulation input unit **120** receives the manipulation for requesting the PIN lock using the master key, the manipulation input unit **120** outputs the request for PIN lock using a master key to the control unit **190**. Also, reception and display of the E-mail described in sequence S**184** (refer to FIG. **9**) are also performed in step S**501**.

**[0230]** When the control unit **190** receives the request for PIN lock from the communication unit **130** or the manipulation input unit **120**, step S**502** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** judges whether the request for PIN lock is output from the communication unit **130**, that is, the request for PIN lock is transmitted from the terminal device **200** carried by the worker. When it is judged in step S**502** that the request for PIN lock is output from the communication unit **130**, that is, when the judgment in step S**502** is YES, steps S**511** and S**512** are executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** performs a process such as, for example, reading the reference number corresponding to the work order from the request for PIN lock and acquires the PIN from the storage unit **240**, as described in sequence S**164** (refer to FIG. **8**). Thus, the control unit **190** performs a process of judging whether the request for PIN lock is from the person having a right to request PIN lock based on the reference number corresponding to the work order and the PIN included in the request for PIN lock.

**[0231]** When it is judged in step S**512** that the request for PIN lock is not from the person having a right to request the PIN lock, that is, when the judgment in step S**512** is NO, the control unit **190** outputs deficient content, indicating that there is no right to request the PIN lock, to the communication unit **130**. The communication unit **130** transmits the deficient content to the terminal device **200** that is a transmission source for the request for PIN lock.

**[0232]** Then, the procedure returns to step S**501**, the communication unit **130** waits for a request for PIN lock again.

**[0233]** On the other hand, when it is judged in step S**512** that the request for PIN lock is from the person having a right to request PIN lock, that is, when the judgment in step S**512** is YES, step S**531** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **190** transitions to a PIN lock state. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**165** (refer to FIG. **8**).

**[0234]** Then, the control unit **190** controls the display unit **110** to display that the PIN lock is made effective in step S**532**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**166**.

**[0235]** Further, in step S**533**, the control unit **190** outputs information indicating that the PIN lock is made effective, to the communication unit **130**, and the communication unit **130** transmits the information to the terminal device **200**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**167**.

**[0236]** Then, the process in FIG. **16** ends and the procedure proceeds to step S**404** (refer to FIG. **13**).

**[0237]** On the other hand, when it is judged in step S**502** that the request for PIN lock has been output from the manipulation input unit **120**, that is, when the judgment in step S**502** is NO, the procedure proceeds to step S**531**. That is, since the PIN lock using the master key is requested, the central control device **100** performs the PIN lock based on the request.

**[0238]** FIG. **17** is a flowchart showing a process procedure in which the central control device **100** performs release of the PIN lock. The process in FIG. **17** is performed in step S**404** (refer to FIG. **13**).

**[0239]** First, the communication unit **130** waits for a request for PIN lock release from the terminal device **200**. When the communication unit **130** receives the request for PIN lock release from the terminal device **200**, the communication unit **130** outputs the release request to the control unit **190**. On the other hand, the manipulation input unit **120** waits for a manipulation for a request for PIN lock release using a master key.

**[0240]** In step S**601**, when the manipulation input unit **120** receives the manipulation for a request for PIN lock release using a master key, the manipulation input unit **120** outputs the release request using the master key to the control unit

190. Also, the E-mail reception and display described in sequence S222 (refer to FIG. 11) are performed in step S601.

[0241] In step S602, the control unit 190 receives the request for PIN lock release from the communication unit 130 or the manipulation input unit 120. Then, the control unit 190 judges whether the request for PIN lock release is output from the communication unit 130, that is, the release request is transmitted from the terminal device 200 carried by the worker. When it is judged the release request is output from the communication unit 130, that is, when the judgment in step S602 is YES, steps S611 and S612 are executed. Specifically, the control unit 190 reads the reference number corresponding to the work order from the release request and acquires a PIN from the storage unit 240, similar to the description of sequence S164 (refer to FIG. 8). Thus, the control unit 190 performs a process of judging whether the release request is from a person having a right to request the release based on the reference number corresponding to the work order and the PIN included in the release request.

[0242] When it is judged that the release request is not from the person having a right to request the release, that is, when the judgment in step S612 is NO, step S621 is executed. Specifically, the control unit 190 outputs deficient content, indicating that there is no right to request the release, to the communication unit 130. The communication unit 130 transmits the deficient content to the terminal device 200, which is a transmission source for the release request.

[0243] Then, the procedure returns to step S601, in which the communication unit 130 waits for the release request again.

[0244] On the other hand, when it is judged in step S612 that the release request is from a person having a right to request the release, that is, when the judgment in step S612 is YES, step S641 is executed. Specifically, the control unit 190 releases the PIN lock. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S206 (refer to FIG. 10).

[0245] Then, in step S642, the control unit 190 controls the display unit 110 to display that the PIN lock has been released. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S207.

[0246] Further, in step S643, the control unit 190 outputs information indicating that the PIN lock has been released, to the communication unit 130, and the communication unit 130 transmits the information to the terminal device 200. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S208.

[0247] Then, the process in FIG. 17 ends, and the procedure proceeds to step S405 (refer to FIG. 13).

[0248] On the other hand, when it is judged in step S602 that the release request has been output from the manipulation input unit 120, that is, when the judgment in step S602 is NO, step S631 is executed. Specifically, the control unit 190 performs a process of confirming that a given procedure is executed, as described in sequence S226.

[0249] In step S632, the control unit 190 judges whether the PIN lock can be released, based on whether the safety has been confirmed through the confirmation process of step S631. For example, the control unit 190 judges whether the PIN lock can be released based on whether there is a safety confirmation completion manipulation by the ordering person, as described in sequence S226.

[0250] When it is judged that the PIN lock can be released, that is, when the judgment in step S632 is NO, the procedure returns to step S631 to wait for the safety confirmation completion. On the other hand, when it is judged that the PIN lock can be released, that is, when the judgment in step S632 is YES, the procedure proceeds to step S641 in which the PIN lock is released.

[0251] FIG. 18 is a flowchart showing a process procedure in which the central control device 100 performs release of the safety measure. The process of FIG. 18 is performed in step S405 (refer to FIG. 13).

[0252] First, in step S661, the manipulation input unit 120 waits for an input manipulation from the ordering person indicating whether a work completion report is necessary. Although the case in which the work completion report is performed has been described in FIG. 12, a case in which such a report is unnecessary may also be considered. For example, in maintenance work spanning several days, the work completion report of a final day may be requested but the work completion report of other days may not be requested. Thereby, the manipulation input unit 120 waits for the ordering person to input a manipulation indicating whether the work completion report is necessary.

[0253] When the manipulation input unit 120 receives the input manipulation indicating whether the work completion report is necessary, the manipulation input unit 120 outputs information indicating whether the work completion report is necessary, to the control unit 190. In step 662, the control unit 190 judges whether the work completion report is necessary based on the information indicating whether the work completion report is necessary.

[0254] When the control unit 190 judges that the work completion report is unnecessary, that is, when the judgment in step S662 is NO, the procedure proceeds to step S681, in which a process of releasing the safety measure, which will be described later, is performed.

[0255] When the control unit 190 judges that the work completion report is necessary, that is, when the judgment in step S662 is YES, step S671 is executed. Specifically, the control unit 190 transmits information indicating that the work completion report is necessary to the terminal device 200 via the communication unit 130.

[0256] In step S672, the communication unit 130 waits for the work completion report to be transmitted from the terminal device 200.

[0257] When the communication unit 130 receives the work completion report, the control unit 190 controls the display unit 110 to display the work completion report in step S673A. This process corresponds to the process of the sequence S261 (refer to FIG. 12).

[0258] Then, in step 673B, the manipulation input unit 120 waits for a manipulation by the ordering person for inputting the result of confirming the work completion report. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S262.

[0259] When the manipulation input unit 120 receives the input manipulation for the confirmation result, the control unit 190 judges that there is no problem in the confirmation result in step S674. For example, the ordering person inputs "OK" in the keyboard included in the manipulation input unit 120. Then, the control unit 190 judges that the confirmation result has no problem (NO). On the other hand, when the ordering person inputs "NG" and then inputs deficient content, the control unit 190 determines that there is a problem (YES).

[0260] When it is judged that there is a problem, that is, when the judgment in step S674 is NO, step S679 is executed. Specifically, the control unit 190 outputs the deficient content included in the confirmation result to the communication unit

130, and the communication unit 130 transmits the deficient content to the terminal device 200. Then, the procedure returns to step S672 and the communication unit 130 waits for the work completion report to be retransmitted from the terminal device 200.

[0261] On the other hand, when it is judged in step S674 that the confirmation result has no problem, that is, when the judgment in step S674 is YES, step S675 is executed. Specifically, the control unit 190 outputs an acceptance notification indicating that there is no problem in the work completion report to the communication unit 130, and the communication unit 130 transmits the acceptance notification to the terminal device 200. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S263.

[0262] Then, in step S681, the manipulation input unit 120 waits for an input manipulation for instructing the release of the safety measure by the ordering person who has confirmed safety based on the work completion report. When the manipulation input unit 120 receives the input manipulation for instructing the release of the safety measure, the manipulation input unit 120 outputs information indicating the received input manipulation to the control unit 190. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S265.

[0263] In steps S682 and S683, the control unit 190 judges whether the PIN lock for the safety measure as a release target has been released for all maintenance works by referencing the management data for safety measure stored in the storage unit 140, as described in sequences S262 to S274 (refer to FIG. 12).

[0264] When it is judged that there is a maintenance work for which the PIN lock has not been released, that is, when the judgment in step S683 is NO, the procedure returns to step S682 to wait for the PIN lock to be released in all maintenance works.

[0265] On the other hand, when it is judged in step S683 that the PIN lock is released in all the maintenance works, that is, when the judgment in step S683 is YES, step S684 is executed. Specifically, the control unit 190 controls the target device 900 to release the first state and enter a normal state according to the information output from the manipulation input unit 120. That is, the control unit 190 releases the safety measure. This process corresponds to the process of sequences S266 to S274 (refer to FIG. 12).

[0266] Then, in step S685, the control unit 190 detects that the safety measure has been released based on the information transmitted from the target device 900, and transmits information indicating that the safety measure has been released, to the terminal device 200 via the communication unit 130. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S275.

[0267] Further, in step S686, the control unit 190 displays that the safety measure has been released on the display unit 110. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S281.

[0268] Then, the process of FIG. 18 ends.

[0269] Next, operation of the terminal device 200 carried by the worker will be described with reference to FIGS. 19 to 23.

[0270] FIGS. 19 to 23 are flowcharts showing a process procedure performed by the terminal device 200.

[0271] FIG. 19 is a flowchart showing an overview of a process procedure performed by the terminal device 200. The terminal device 200 performs the process of FIG. 19 when the power is ON.

[0272] First, in step S701, the terminal device 200 receives an ID and a password input from the worker to perform a login process, and displays an initial screen. This process corresponds to the process of sequences S111 to S112.

[0273] In step S702, the control unit 290 of the terminal device 200 confirms the presence or absence of an input manipulation by a worker in the manipulation input unit 220 and the presence or absence of a received radio signal in the communication unit 230.

[0274] In step S703, the control unit 290 judges whether the manipulation input unit 220 has received a logout manipulation. When the control unit 290 judges that the manipulation input unit 220 has received the logout manipulation, that is, when the judgment in step S703 is YES, step S704 is executed. Specifically, the control unit 290 performs a logout process, and the display unit 210 displays a login screen. Then, the procedure returns to step S701 to wait for the worker to login.

[0275] On the other hand, when the control unit 290 judges in step S703 that the manipulation input unit 220 has not received the logout manipulation, that is, when the judgment in step S703 is NO, step S711 is executed. Specifically, the control unit 290 judges whether the manipulation input unit 220 has received a manipulation for requesting information display. The manipulation for requesting information display cited herein is performed by the worker selecting an information display view such as the route map of the rail or the electrical power system view (touching a button on the screen) in the selection area A25 of the display screen in FIG. 3.

[0276] When the control unit 290 judges that a manipulation to request the information display is received, that is, when the judgment in step S711 is YES, step S712 is executed. Specifically, the control unit 290 controls the display unit 210 to display the requested view. Then, the procedure returns to step S702.

[0277] On the other hand, when the control unit 290 judges in step S711 that the manipulation input unit 220 has not received the manipulation for requesting information display, that is, when the judgment in step S711 is NO, step S721 is executed. Specifically, the control unit 290 judges a state of the maintenance work. The judgment of the state of the maintenance work is performed, for example, by the terminal device 200 querying the central control device 100 about the state of the maintenance work.

[0278] When the control unit 290 judges in step S721 that the state is a state Z1 in which the work order has been received and the approval request has not been transmitted, step S722 is executed. Specifically, the terminal device 200 performs a process of producing and transmitting the approval request and then the procedure returns to step S702.

[0279] When the control unit 290 judges in step S721 that the state is a state Z2 in which the approval request has been transmitted and PIN lock has not been performed, step S723 is executed. Specifically, the terminal device 200 performs a process of requesting the PIN lock and then the procedure returns to step S702.

[0280] When the control unit 290 judges in step S721 that the state is a state Z3 in which the PIN lock has been performed, step S724 is executed. Specifically, the terminal device 200 performs a process of requesting the release of the PIN lock and then the procedure returns to step S702.

[0281] When the control unit 290 judges in step S721 that the state is a state Z4 in which the work completion report has

been requested, step S**725** is executed. The terminal device **200** performs a process of producing and transmitting the work completion report and then the procedure returns to step S**702**.

**[0282]** When the control unit **290** judges in step S**721** that the state is a state Z**5** in which the information indicating that the safety measure has been released has been received, step S**726** is executed. Specifically, the terminal device **200** controls the display unit **110** to display that the safety measure has been released and then the procedure returns to step S**702**.

**[0283]** On the other hand, when the control unit **290** judges in step S**721** that the state is not any of the above-described states, the procedure returns to step S**702**. For example, this state corresponds to a state in which the work order has not been received.

**[0284]** FIG. **20** is a flowchart showing a process procedure in which the terminal device **200** produces and transmits the approval request. The process in FIG. **20** is performed in step S**722** (refer to FIG. **19**).

**[0285]** First, in step S**751**, the control unit **290** displays the work order transmitted from the central control device **100**, as a form of an approval request, on the display unit **210**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**122** (refer to FIG. **7**).

**[0286]** Next, in step S**752**, the manipulation input unit **220** receives an input manipulation for requirements of the approval request. The control unit **290** produces the approval request based on the input received by the manipulation input unit **220**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**123**.

**[0287]** Further, in step S**753**, the control unit **290** judges whether the manipulation input unit **220** has received a manipulation for instructing to display the detailed information of the maintenance work. When the control unit **290** receives an instruction to display the detailed information, that is, when the judgment in step S**753** is YES, the procedure proceeds to step S**754** and the control unit **290** displays the detailed information on the display unit **210** according to the instruction.

**[0288]** For example, when the worker wants a detailed procedure of the maintenance work while confirming the work order, the worker performs a manipulation for requesting display of a work manual or detailed data of a device that is a work target.

**[0289]** The terminal device **200** displays the work manual or the detailed data of the device, which is a work target, according to the manipulation. Further, the terminal device **200** may display information relating to the maintenance work, such as weather information of a work area.

**[0290]** The procedure then returns to step S**751**, in which the control unit **290** performs the process of continuing to create the approval request.

**[0291]** On the other hand, when the control unit **290** judges in step S**753** that the manipulation input unit **220** has not received a manipulation for instructing to display the detailed information, that is, when the judgment in step S**753** is NO, step S**761** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** judges whether the input of requirements has been completed. For example, the control unit **290** judges whether the input of requirements has been completed based on whether the input completion button displayed by the display unit **110** has been pressed.

**[0292]** When the control unit **290** judges that the input of requirements has not been completed, that is, when the judgment in step S**761** is NO, the procedure returns to step S**752**. The control unit **290** performs a process of continuing to create the approval request.

**[0293]** When the control unit **290** judges in step S**761** that the input of requirements has been completed, that is, when the judgment in step S**761** is YES, step S**771** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** outputs the produced approval request to the communication unit **230**. The communication unit **230** transmits the approval request to the central control device **100**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**124**.

**[0294]** Then, in step S**772**, the communication unit **230** waits for the result of confirming the approval request to be transmitted from the central control device **100**. When the communication unit **230** receives the confirmation result, the communication unit **230** outputs the confirmation result to the control unit **290**.

**[0295]** In step S**773**, the control unit **290** judges whether there is a problem in the approval request according to the confirmation result. For example, the control unit **290** judges whether there is a problem based on whether the confirmation result is the acceptance notification transmitted in step S**461** (refer to FIG. **15**) or the deficient content transmitted in step S**451**.

**[0296]** When the control unit **290** judges that there is a problem, that is, when the judgment in step S**773** is NO, step S**781** is executed. The control unit **290** reads deficient content of the approval request from the confirmation result, and displays the read deficient content on the display unit **210**. Then, the procedure returns to step S**751** to perform a process of modifying the approval request.

**[0297]** When the control unit **290** judges that there is no problem, that is, when the judgment in step S**773** is YES, step S**791** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display that the approval request has been accepted.

**[0298]** Then, in step S**792**, the communication unit **230** waits for information indicating that safety measure is made effective to be transmitted from the central control device **100**. When the communication unit **230** receives the information, the communication unit **230** outputs the received information to the control unit **290**. In step S**793**, the control unit **290** displays that the safety measure is made effective on the display unit **210** based on the information output from the communication unit **230**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**151** (refer to FIG. **7**).

**[0299]** Then, the process in FIG. **20** ends and the procedure returns to step S**702** (refer to FIG. **19**).

**[0300]** FIG. **21** is a flowchart showing a process procedure in which the terminal device **200** makes a request for PIN lock. The process in FIG. **21** is performed in step S**723** (refer to FIG. **19**).

**[0301]** First, in step S**801**, the control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display the PIN input screen in response to a request to display the PIN input screen, which is received by the manipulation input unit **220**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**161** (refer to FIG. **8**).

**[0302]** Then, in step S**802**, the manipulation input unit **220** waits for an input manipulation and outputs information indicating the content of the received input manipulation to the control unit **290**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**162** (refer to FIG. **8**).

**[0303]** In step S**803**, the control unit **290** judges whether the manipulation input unit **220** has received a PIN input manipulation and a manipulation for requesting the PIN lock.

**[0304]** When the control unit **290** judges that the manipulation input unit **220** has received these manipulations, that is, when the judgment in step S**803** is YES, step S**811** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** produces a request for PIN lock including the reference number corresponding to the work order and the PIN, and outputs the request for PIN lock to the communication unit **230**. The communication unit **230** transmits the request for PIN lock to the central control device **100**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**163**.

**[0305]** Then, the procedure proceeds to step S**812**.

**[0306]** On the other hand, in step S**803**, when the control unit **290** judges that the manipulation input unit **220** has not received the PIN input manipulation and the manipulation for requesting the PIN lock, that is, when the judgment in step S**803** is NO, step S**841** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** judges whether the manipulation input unit **220** has received a manipulation for pressing the mail transmission button as a manipulation for requesting the PIN lock using the master key. When it is judged that the manipulation for pressing a mail transmission button has been received, that is, when the judgment in step S**841** is YES, step S**842** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** provides the mail transmission means and creates E-mail according to a character input manipulation. When the manipulation input unit **220** receives the E-mail transmission manipulation, the control unit **290** transmits the E-mail to the central control device **100** via the communication unit **230**.

**[0307]** This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**183**.

**[0308]** Then, the procedure proceeds to step S**812**.

**[0309]** On the other hand, when it is judged in step S**841** that the manipulation for pressing a mail transmission button has not been received, that is, when the judgment in step S**841** is NO, the procedure returns to step S**802**, in which the manipulation input unit **220** waits for the input manipulation.

**[0310]** In step S**812**, the communication unit **230** waits for the result of confirming the request for PIN lock.

**[0311]** After receiving the confirmation result, the communication unit **230** outputs the received confirmation result to the control unit **290**.

**[0312]** In step S**813**, the control unit **290** judges whether there is no problem in the request for PIN lock based on the confirmation result. For example, the control unit **290** judges whether there is a problem based on whether the confirmation result is the information indicating that the PIN lock is made effective, which is transmitted in step S**533** (refer to FIG. **16**), or information of the deficient content transmitted in step S**521**.

**[0313]** When the control unit **290** judges that there is a problem, that is, when the judgment in step S**813** is NO, step S**821** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** reads deficient content of the request for PIN lock from the confirmation result and displays the read deficient content on the display unit **210**. Then, the procedure returns to step S**802**, in which the manipulation input unit **220** waits for the input manipulation.

**[0314]** On the other hand, when the control unit **290** judges that there is a problem, that is, when the judgment in step S**813** is YES, step S**831** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display that the PIN lock is made effective. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**168**.

**[0315]** Then, the process of FIG. **21** ends and the procedure returns to step S**702** (refer to FIG. **19**).

**[0316]** FIG. **22** is a flowchart showing a process procedure in which the terminal device **200** makes a release request. The process in FIG. **22** is performed in step S**724** (refer to FIG. **19**).

**[0317]** First, in step S**851**, the control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display the PIN input screen in response to a request to display the PIN input screen, which is received by the manipulation input unit **220**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**201** (refer to FIG. **10**).

**[0318]** Then, in step S**852**, the manipulation input unit **220** waits for an input manipulation, and outputs information indicating content of the received input manipulation to the control unit **290**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**202**.

**[0319]** In step S**853**, the control unit **290** judges whether the manipulation input unit **220** has received a PIN input manipulation and a release request manipulation.

**[0320]** When the control unit **290** judges that the manipulation input unit **220** has received these manipulations, that is, when the judgment in step S**853** is YES, step S**861** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display an alert indicating that the safety measure may be released during a given time. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**203**.

**[0321]** Then, in step S**862**, the control unit **290** generates a release request including the reference number corresponding to the work order and the PIN, and outputs the release request to the communication unit **230**. The communication unit **230** transmits the release request to the central control device **100**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**204**.

**[0322]** Then, the procedure proceeds to step S**863**.

**[0323]** In step S**853**, when it is judged that the manipulation input unit **220** has not received the PIN input manipulation and the manipulation for requesting PIN lock release, that is, when the judgment in step S**853** is NO, step S**891** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** judges whether the manipulation input unit **220** has received a manipulation for pressing the mail transmission button as a manipulation for a request for PIN lock release using a master key. When the control unit **290** judges that the manipulation for pressing the mail transmission button has been received, that is, when the judgment in step S**891** is YES, step S**892** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** provides a mail transmission means and produces E-mail according to a character input manipulation. When the manipulation input unit **220** receives a manipulation for transmitting the E-mail, the control unit **290** transmits the E-mail to the central control device **100** via the communication unit **230**. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**223**.

**[0324]** Then, the procedure proceeds to step S**863**.

**[0325]** On the other hand, in step S**891**, when it is judged that the manipulation for pressing a mail transmission button has not been received, that is, when the judgment in step S**891** is NO, the procedure returns to step S**852**, in which the manipulation input unit **220** waits for the input manipulation.

**[0326]** In step S**863**, the communication unit **230** waits for the result of confirming the release request. After receiving

the confirmation result, the communication unit **230** outputs the received confirmation result to the control unit **290**.

**[0327]** In step S**864**, the control unit **290** judges whether there is no problem in the release request based on the confirmation result. For example, the control unit **290** judges whether there is a problem based on whether the confirmation result is the information indicating that the PIN lock has been released, which is transmitted in step S**633** (refer to FIG. **17**), or the information indicating the deficient content transmitted in step S**621**.

**[0328]** When the control unit **290** judges that there is a problem, that is, when the judgment in step S**864** is NO, step S**881** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** reads deficient content of the release request from the confirmation result, and displays the read deficient content on the display unit **210**. Then, the procedure returns to step S**852**, and the manipulation input unit **220** waits for the input manipulation.

**[0329]** In step S**864**, when the control unit **290** judges that there is no problem, that is, when the judgment in step S**864** is YES, step S**871** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display that the PIN lock has been released. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**209**.

**[0330]** Then, the process of FIG. **22** ends and the procedure returns to step S**702** (refer to FIG. **19**).

**[0331]** FIG. **23** is a flowchart showing a process procedure in which the terminal device **200** produces and transmits a work completion report. The process in FIG. **23** is performed in step S**725** (refer to FIG. **19**).

**[0332]** First, in step S**901**, according to a manipulation for requesting to display a form for reporting work completion, which is received by the manipulation input unit **220**, the control unit **290** reads the form for reporting the work completion which is stored in the storage unit **240** in advance. The control unit **290** controls the display unit **210** to display the form for reporting the work completion. This process corresponds to the process of sequence S**210** (refer to FIG. **10**) or S**231** (refer to FIG. **11**).

**[0333]** In step S**902**, the manipulation input unit **220** waits for a manipulation for inputting requirements to the form for reporting the work completion, and outputs the input requirements to the control unit **290**.

**[0334]** The control unit **290** produces a work completion report according to the requirements output from the manipulation input unit **220**. When the manipulation input unit **220** receives a manipulation for transmitting the work completion report, the control unit **290** transmits the produced work completion report to the central control device **100** via the communication unit **230** in step S**903**.

**[0335]** Then, in step S**904**, the communication unit **230** waits for the result of confirming the work completion report. After receiving the confirmation result, the communication unit **230** outputs the received confirmation result to the control unit **290**.

**[0336]** In step S**905**, the control unit **290** judges whether there is no problem in the release request based on the confirmation result. For example, the control unit **290** judges whether there is a problem based on whether the confirmation result is the acceptance notification transmitted in step S**675** (refer to FIG. **18**) or the deficient content transmitted in step S**679**.

**[0337]** When the control unit **290** judges that there is a problem, that is, when the judgment in step S**905** is NO, step S**911** is executed. Specifically, the control unit **290** reads deficient content of the release request from the confirmation result, and displays the read deficient content on the display unit **210**. Then, the procedure returns to step S**902**, in which the manipulation input unit **220** waits for an input manipulation.

**[0338]** When the control unit **290** judges that there is no problem, that is, when the judgment in step S**773** is YES, the communication unit **230** waits for information indicating that the safety measure has been released in step S**921**. When the communication unit **230** receives the information, the control unit **290** displays that the safety measure has been released on the display unit **210** according to the information in step S**922**.

**[0339]** Then, the process in FIG. **23** ends and the procedure returns to step S**702** (refer to FIG. **19**).

**[0340]** As described above, the central control device **100** transitions to the PIN lock state in which the first state is maintained, in response to the request from the terminal device **200**. When the central control device **100** transitions to the PIN lock state, the terminal device **200** displays that the PIN lock is made effective.

**[0341]** Accordingly, when there is no request from the terminal device **200**, that is, when there is no request by the worker, the central control device **100**, in principle, cannot release the safety measure, which is displayed on the terminal device **200**. Therefore, it is possible to prevent the worker from being in danger due to the release of the safety measure caused by erroneous situation recognition or faulty manipulation by the ordering person in the operation control center. That is, it is possible to reduce possibility of the worker being in danger.

**[0342]** Since the worker can confirm that the safety measure is maintained, it is possible to reduce the anxiety of the worker. Further, the worker confirms that the safety measure is maintained and then can initiate the maintenance work. Therefore, the safety measure is not executed by erroneous situation recognition or faulty manipulation by the ordering person, thereby preventing the worker from being in danger.

**[0343]** Further, both the central control device **100** and the terminal device **200** display information on the control state of the target device **900**, such as information indicating that the PIN lock has been performed. This enables both the ordering person and the worker to confirm the control state of the target device **900**.

**[0344]** Further, the central control device **100** can perform the PIN lock by receiving the request for PIN lock using the master key even in a state in which communication is not possible due to failure or battery shortage of the terminal device **200** or poor radio conditions, or when a authorized person making a request for PIN lock is absent. Accordingly, it is possible to reduce anxiety of the worker or possibility of the worker being in danger.

**[0345]** Further, the central control device **100** can release the PIN lock by receiving the request for PIN lock release using a master key, even in a state in which communication is not possible due to failure or battery shortage of the terminal device **200** or poor radio conditions, or when a authorized person making a release request is absent. It is possible to restore the rail transportation control system **1** by releasing the safety measure according to the release of the PIN lock.

**[0346]** Further, the central control device **100** controls the target device **900** to enter the first state based on the approval request transmitted from the terminal device **200** (the information indicating that the instruction has been confirmed).

Thus, the worker can take a safety measure in a state in which the worker understands the maintenance work. Accordingly, the maintenance work is rapidly performed, such that the safety measure can be released in a relatively short time to restore the rail transportation control system.

**[0347]** The terminal device **200** transmits a request for PIN lock in the first state. That is, only when the PIN lock is possible, does the terminal device **200** timely transmit the request for PIN lock. Therefore, it is possible to suppress transmission of a request for useless PIN lock and suppress power consumption of the terminal device **200**.

**[0348]** The central control device **100** judges whether the request for PIN lock is from a person having a right to make a request for PIN lock based on the PIN included in the request for PIN lock. Therefore, it is possible to prevent an illegal request for PIN lock from a person having no right to make such a request.

**[0349]** The central control device **100** releases the PIN lock based on the request for PIN lock release from the terminal device **200** carried by the worker. That is, when there is no request for PIN lock release from the terminal device **200** carried by the worker, the central control device **100** does not release the PIN lock in principle. Therefore, it is possible to prevent the PIN lock from being released and the safety measure from being released due to erroneous recognition or faulty manipulation by the ordering person in the operation control center, thereby securing the safety of the worker.

**[0350]** The central control device **100** judges whether the release request is from a person having a right to make a release request based on the PIN included in the request for PIN lock release. Thereby, it is possible to prevent an illegal release request from a person having no right and to secure the safety of the worker more reliably.

**[0351]** Also, a program for realizing all or some of the functions of the central control device **100** or the terminal device **200** may be recorded in a computer-readable recording medium. The program recorded in this recording medium may be read and executed with a computer system to perform a process of each unit. Also, the "computer system" cited herein includes an OS or software of a peripheral device and the like.

**[0352]** Further, when using a WWW system, the "computer system" includes an environment provided by a homepage (or an environment in which a homepage is displayed).

**[0353]** Further, the "computer-readable recording medium" includes a storage unit, including a portable medium such as a flexible disk, a magnetic optical disc, a ROM, or a CD-ROM, and a hard disk embedded in the computer system. Further, the "computer-readable recording medium" includes the following (1) and (2). (1) A medium for temporarily and dynamically storing programs, like a communication line when a program is transmitted via a network such as the Internet or a communication line such as a telephone line. (2) A medium for storing programs for a given time, like a volatile memory inside a computer system consisting of a server and a client in that case. The program may be a program for realizing some of the above-described functions. Alternatively, the program may be a program capable of realizing the above-described functions through a combination with a program previously stored in a computer system.

**[0354]** Embodiments of the present invention include the following (1) to (12).

**[0355]** (1) A control system having the following configuration. A target device has an influence on the safety of the maintenance work. A control device including a control unit for controlling the target device to enter a maintenance-allowed state (first state) in which the maintenance work is safely performed, and a communication unit (first communication unit) for performing communication. A maintenance worker terminal device (terminal device) including a manipulation input unit (a first input unit) for receiving an input manipulation by a maintenance worker (worker) performing the maintenance work; a lock request generation unit (a request generation unit) for generating a lock request to request the control device to maintain the maintenance-allowed state in response to an input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit when the control unit of the control device controls the target device to enter the maintenance-allowed state; and a communication unit (a second communication unit) for performing communication.

**[0356]** In this control system, the communication unit of the maintenance worker terminal device transmits the lock request. The communication unit of the control device receives the lock request. The control unit of the control device transitions to a lock state in which the control unit controls the target device to maintain the maintenance-allowed state, based on the lock request received by the communication unit of the control device.

**[0357]** (2) In the control system described in (1), the control device includes a manipulation input unit (a second input unit) for receiving an input manipulation. The communication unit of the control device transmits a work instruction indicating content of the maintenance work to the maintenance worker terminal device according to the input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit of the control device. After receiving the work instruction, the communication unit of the maintenance worker terminal device transmits instruction confirmation completion information indicating that the maintenance worker has confirmed the work instruction to the control unit according to the input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit of the maintenance worker terminal device. The control unit of the control device controls the target device to enter the maintenance-allowed state based on the instruction confirmation completion information transmitted from the maintenance worker terminal device.

**[0358]** (3) In the control system described in (1) or (2), when the control unit controls the target device to enter the maintenance-allowed state, the communication unit of the control device transmits information indicating that the target device has entered the maintenance-allowed state to the maintenance worker terminal device. After receiving information indicating that the target device has entered the maintenance-allowed state, the communication unit of the maintenance worker terminal device transmits the lock request to the control device according to the input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit of the maintenance worker terminal device. The control unit of the control device transitions to the lock state based on the lock request transmitted from the maintenance worker terminal device.

**[0359]** (4) In the control system described in any one of (1) to (3), the manipulation input unit of the maintenance worker terminal device receives a lock request manipulation including PIN code for identifying the maintenance worker (personal identification code). The communication unit of the maintenance worker terminal device transmits the lock request including the PIN code. The control unit of the control

device transitions to the lock state when judging that the PIN code included in the lock request is coincident with a previously registered PIN code.

**[0360]** (5) In the control system described in any one of (1) to (4), the communication unit of the control device and the communication unit of the maintenance worker terminal device perform wireless communication.

**[0361]** (6) In the control system described in any one of (1) to (5), after receiving the lock request, the communication unit of the maintenance worker terminal device transmits a lock release request to request release of the lock state according to the input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit of the maintenance worker terminal device. The control unit of the control device releases the lock state based on the lock release request.

**[0362]** (7) In the control system described in any one of (1) to (6), the manipulation input unit of the maintenance worker terminal device receives a lock release request manipulation including an input of a PIN code for identifying the maintenance worker. The communication unit of the maintenance worker terminal device transmits the lock release request including the PIN code. The control unit of the control device releases the lock state when it determines that the PIN code included in the lock release request is coincident with a previously registered PIN code.

**[0363]** (8) In the control system described in (1), the control device includes a manipulation input unit for receiving an input manipulation. The control unit releases the lock state based on the input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit of the control device.

**[0364]** (9) A maintenance worker terminal device including the following configuration. A communication unit for receiving information indicating that a control device controls a target device having an influence on the safety of maintenance work to enter a maintenance-allowed state in which the maintenance work is safely performed. An input unit for receiving an input manipulation. In the maintenance worker terminal device, the communication unit transmits a lock request to the control device to request the control device to maintain the maintenance-allowed state in response to the input manipulation received by the input unit, after receiving the information.

**[0365]** (10) In the maintenance worker terminal device described in (9), after receiving the lock request, the communication unit transmits a lock release request to the control device to request release of the lock state according to the input manipulation received by the manipulation input unit.

**[0366]** (11) A control device including the following configuration. A control unit for controlling a target device having an influence on safety of maintenance work to enter a maintenance-allowed state in which the maintenance work is safely performed. A communication unit for receiving a lock request to request to maintain the maintenance-allowed state. In this control device, when controlling the target device to enter the maintenance-allowed state, the control unit transitions to a lock state in which the control unit controls the target device to maintain the maintenance-allowed state when the communication unit receives the lock request.

**[0367]** (12) In the control device described in (11), the communication unit receives a lock release request to request release of the lock state. From the lock state, the control unit releases the lock state based on the lock release request when the communication unit receives the lock release request.

**[0368]** While preferred embodiments of the invention have been described and illustrated above, it should be understood that these are exemplary of the invention and are not to be considered as limiting. Additions, omissions, substitutions, and other modifications can be made without departing from the scope of the present invention. Accordingly, the invention is not to be considered as being limited by the foregoing description, and is only limited by the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

**1**. A control system comprising:

a target device having an influence on safety of maintenance work;

a control device for controlling the target device; and

a terminal device manipulated by a worker performing the maintenance work, wherein

the control device includes a control unit for controlling the target device to enter a first state in which the worker is allowed to safely perform the maintenance work, and a first communication unit for performing communication,

the terminal device includes a first input unit for receiving an input manipulation by the worker, a request generation unit for generating a request directed to the control device; and a second communication unit for performing communication,

the request generation unit generates a lock request to request the control device to maintain the first state in response to the input manipulation when the control unit controls the target device to enter the first state,

the second communication unit transmits the lock request,

the first communication unit receives the lock request, and

the control unit transitions to a lock state in which the control unit controls the target device to maintain the first state, based on the lock request received by the first communication unit.

**2**. The control system according to claim **1**, wherein

the control device includes a second input unit for receiving an input manipulation by a worker,

the first communication unit transmits a work instruction indicating content of the maintenance work to the second communication unit according to the input manipulation received by the second input unit,

after receiving the work instruction, the second communication unit transmits first information indicating that the worker has confirmed the work instruction to the control unit according to the input manipulation received by the first input unit, and

the control unit controls the target device to enter the first state based on the first information transmitted from the second communication unit.

**3**. The control system according to claim **1**, wherein

when the control unit controls the target device to enter the first state, the first communication unit transmits second information, indicating that the target device has entered the first state, to the second communication unit,

after receiving the second information, the second communication unit transmits the lock request to the control device according to the input manipulation received by the first input unit, and

the control unit transitions to the lock state based on the lock request transmitted from the terminal device.

**4**. The control system according to claim **1**, wherein

the first input unit receives an input manipulation for lock request including

personal identification code for identifying the worker,

the second communication unit transmits the lock request including the personal identification code, and

the control unit transitions to the lock state when judging that the personal identification code included in the lock request is coincident with previously registered personal identification code.

**5**. The control system according to claim **1**, wherein

the first communication unit and the second communication unit perform wireless communication.

**6**. The control system according to claim **1**, wherein

after receiving the lock request, the second communication unit transmits a release request to request release of the lock state according to the input manipulation received by the first input unit, and

the control unit releases the lock state based on the release request.

**7**. The control system according to claim **1**, wherein

the first input unit receives an input manipulation for a release request including

an input of a personal identification code for identifying the worker;

the second communication unit transmits the release request including the personal identification code to the control unit, and

the control unit releases the lock state when judging that the personal identification code included in the release request is coincident with previously registered personal identification code.

**8**. The control system according to claim **1**, wherein

the control device includes a second input unit for receiving an input manipulation by the worker, and

the control unit releases the lock state based on the input manipulation received by the second input unit.

**9**. A terminal device comprising:

a communication unit for receiving information of a control device for controlling a target device having an influence on safety of maintenance work; and

an input unit for receiving an input manipulation, wherein

the communication unit receives information indicating that the control device controls the target device to enter a first state in which the maintenance work is safely performed, and transmits a lock request to the control device to request the control device to

maintain the first state in response to the input manipulation received by the input unit, after receiving the information.

**10**. The terminal device according to claim **9**, wherein

after receiving the lock request, the communication unit transmits a release request to the control device to request release of the lock state according to the input manipulation received by the input unit.

**11**. A control device comprising:

a control unit for controlling a target device having an influence on safety of maintenance work to enter a first state in which the maintenance work is safely performed; and

a communication unit for receiving a lock request to request to maintain the first state, wherein

when controlling the target device to enter the first state, the control unit transitions to a lock state in which the control unit controls the target device to maintain the first state when the communication unit receives the lock request.

**12**. The control device according to claim **11**, wherein

the communication unit receives a release request to request release of the lock state, and

from the lock state, the control unit releases the lock state based on the release request when the communication unit receives the release request.

* * * * *