Safety management systems

Safety management system requirements

To enable accreditation, rail transport operators must have a documented safety management system for their railway operations. The required plans that support a safety management system are set out in the Transport (Rail Safety) Act 2010 and the Transport (Rail Safety) Regulation 2010.

A rail transport operator may either be a rail infrastructure manager, a rollingstock operator, or both.

Inclusions

Matters to be included in the rail transport operator’s safety management system are as follows:

- safety policy
- governance and internal control arrangements
- responsibilities, accountabilities, authorities and interrelationships
- regulatory compliance
- document control arrangements and information management
- review of safety management system
- safety performance measures
- safety audit arrangements
- corrective action
- management of change
- consultation
- internal communication
- risk management
- human factors
- procurement and contract management
- general engineering and operational systems safety requirements
- process control
- asset management
- safety interface coordination
- management of notifiable occurrences
- rail safety worker competence
- security management, including the development of a security management plan
- emergency management, including the development of an emergency management plan
- health and fitness, including the development of a health and fitness management plan
- alcohol and drug management, including the development of an alcohol and drug management plan
- fatigue management, including the development of a fatigue management plan
- resource availability.

Also, a rail transport operator’s safety management system must identify the person responsible for preparing each part of the safety management system and the person, or class of persons, responsible for implementing the system.

Similarities to previous requirements

The safety management system requirements under the Act are very similar to those previously required by Transport and Main Roads.

Also as in previous requirements, a rail transport operator must review their safety management system every year. The review does however require that the rail transport operator seeks opinions from affected stakeholders for improvements to the safety management system. Such opinions must be assessed and, where applicable, a plan developed to effect those improvements to the system.

Under the transitional arrangements, continuing accredited operators will have until October 2011, 12 months from the commencement of the Act, to comply with the new safety management system requirements.

Guidance on developing a safety management system

Non-mandatory guidance on developing a safety management system, developed by the National Transport Council can be found in the National Rail Safety Guideline: Preparation of a Rail Safety Management System at this website:


Find out more

For a full copy of the legislation go to: www.legislation.qld.gov.au
or contact Rail Safety and Transport Security Division:

Phone: 07 3066 2915
Email: rsr@tmr.qld.gov.au
Post: PO Box 673
Fortitude Valley  Qld 4006
Web: www.tmr.qld.gov.au

The Department of Transport and Main Roads has taken all reasonable care in the research and preparation of this fact sheet, however the department does not accept any responsibility for an omission from, or inaccuracy in, this information. Before relying on the information contained in any important matter, recipients should carefully evaluate its accuracy, currency, completeness and relevance for their purposes.