Under the Transport (Rail Safety) Act 2010, accredited railways are required to have and implement a health and fitness management program for employees.

**Safety Management System Requirements**

Under the Transport (Rail Safety) Regulation the railway’s Safety Management System must provide for systems and procedures for developing and implementing a health and fitness management program, for rail safety workers carrying out rail safety work in relation to the railway operations.

Accredited railways in Queensland have already been required under the National Accreditation Package to have a Safety Management System which includes processes and programs to ensure that employees and contractors who perform rail safety work are of sufficient good health and fitness to perform the functions for which they are certified, or the tasks they undertake.

The National Standard for Health Assessment has been recognised as the minimum standard to be applied for the management of rail safety worker health assessment.

**What’s new – Health & Fitness Management Programs**

To comply with the Act a railway must be able to ensure, so far is reasonably practicable, that each rail safety worker who carries out rail safety work for the prescribed railway operations is of sufficient good health and fitness to carry out the work safely.

The definition of “rail safety work” can be found under the heading of “Definitions” in the Act.

Under the Regulation, rail transport operators must be able to demonstrate their health and fitness management program for rail safety workers supports procedures for monitoring and assessing the health and fitness of the rail safety workers are consistent with the guidelines stated in the National Health Standard.

The National Health Standard refers to the National Standard for Health Assessment of Rail Safety Workers developed by the National Transport Commission. This publication can be found on the Transport and Main Roads web site at: www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Safety/Rail-safety/Reference-material

**Find out more**

For a full copy of the legislation go to: www.legislation.qld.gov.au

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