

**ASSOCIATION OF
TOURIST AND HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA**

ABN 19755744868

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ATHRA ALERT #20 - May 2006

RSRP Publishes SMS Guidance for T&H Railway Operators

Guidance Material has been developed by the Australian Rail Safety Regulators Panel (RSRP) in consultation with representatives of ATHRA, COTMA and RHA (NSW). It is intended to assist Tourist and Heritage (T&H) railway operators develop Safety Management Systems (SMSs) which comply with State and Territory rail safety laws, including:

- the National Accreditation Package; and/or
- AS4292.1:2006 Railway safety management - general requirements.

The Guidance Material consists of:

- A brief (7 page) **overview guide** to the materials which also contains a list of other relevant standards and reference materials
- a **sample Safety Management System (SMS)** for a fictional heritage railway operator in the form of a Rail Safety Management Plan and
- **supporting resources** including
 - examples of policies, procedures and standards
 - template documents and forms.

Forty percent of the supporting resources are derived from real-life practical examples contributed by T&H organisations in Queensland SA, Tasmania and Victoria.

The first edition of this material is not as comprehensive as ATHRA would like, but has been published now to recognise that some states have an urgent need for the material due to recent changes to regulations and standards. The RSRP has undertaken to review this Guidance Material in 2007 in order to:

- ensure consistency with the national model legislation and regulations; and
- incorporate comments and suggestions from regulators and operators.

Key Message:

The material can be accessed online at <http://www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/rules/rail.html> . It is also being distributed by State Regulators on CD as follows:

- WA: Rail risk management course for T&H groups held 5-6th May 2006
- NSW: ITSRR Information workshop for heritage operators held 6th May 2006 (The slides from this are at www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/aboutUs/workshops06.html)
- Qld: ATRQ Meeting held on Saturday 13th May 2006
- Vic: ATR Seminar scheduled for 29-30 July 2006

Recommended Actions: This guidance material may be used to:

- 1. Review** your existing SMS against the Guidance Material sample SMS;
- 2. Identify and prioritise** the components of your SMS which need further development or review; and
- 3. Adapt and modify** the Guidance Material relevant components of the sample SMS and the supporting resources to suit your operations. *All tourist and heritage railways are different so some work will be required to adapt these resources. It is unacceptable to the regulators to just do a global find and replace to change the name of the organisation.*

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