

**ASSOCIATION OF
TOURIST AND HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA**

ABN 19755744868

www.athra.asn.au

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ATHRA ALERT #21 - May 2006

TDT Australia: Draft Competency units for Heritage Rail

AS 4292.1 states “Procedures shall be established and implemented for the development, maintenance and monitoring of rail safety worker competence and for the provision of training for all work functions affecting railway safety... Worker competence, qualification requirements and associated recognised training shall be determined with reference to nationally endorsed competency standards where available.” The National Accreditation Package contains similar requirements.

Competency Standards specify the scope of knowledge and skills to be covered in a Training Package. Training Packages are not training manuals but are statements of what is required for an organisation to deliver training, assess competencies and issue qualifications. TDT Australia develops Training Packages for the Transport & Distribution Industry, with the assistance of Commonwealth Government funds (through DEST). Extensive consultation takes place with all industry sectors and Package Reviews take place every three years. The Transport and Distribution Training Package is now undergoing its 3rd review. New and revised draft Rail Units (see www.tdtaustralia.com/?node=3) are available for review and comment, including:

- Inspect and prepare heritage motive power unit
- Inspect and prepare heritage steam loco
- Operate and monitor heritage motive power unit
- Operate and monitor heritage steam loco
- Stable and shut down heritage motive power unit
- Stable and shut down heritage steam loco,

Plus similar units relating to trams.

Note that these units need to be combined with other units (eg concerning safeworking systems, teamwork, fatigue management, customer service, emergency response, etc) to define a qualification.

There is a tendency in our sector, and elsewhere, to jump into the writing of training manuals and support materials without first ensuring that the required outcomes are properly defined and agreed. Such an approach can lead to gaps in training and to overloading training courses with knowledge that is “nice to know” but not relevant to the competency required.

Key Message:

The TDT review provides the T&H sector with an opportunity to ensure that nationally endorsed competencies for rail workers adequately recognise heritage requirements and are not burdened with requirements that only exist in commercial or heavy-haul rail environments.

Recommended Actions:

If you are about to examine or re-examine footplate staff consider using these draft checklists as the basis for that competency assessment.

Feedback regarding the draft TDT units should either be faxed to 03 9320 4243 for the attention of Lisa Davies or e-mailed to lisa@tdtaustralia.com using the feedback sheet provided on the TDT Australia website.

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