

**ASSOCIATION OF  
TOURIST AND HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA**

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## **Guideline for the Safe Operation of Road-Rail Vehicles**

The ARA's Code Management Company has published a Guideline for the safe operation of Road-Rail vehicles in the railway industry (Rol 41-1). Its intended application is to the light category of Road-Rail (vehicles up to 5 tonnes GVM).

Many Tourist & Heritage operations have light trucks or tractors fitted with road-rail equipment used to support track & lineside maintenance work and/or for fire patrols following steam locomotives.

The guideline is structured in the form of a master checklist and example checklists. The Master Checklist indicates standard inspection elements and periodicity to be applied by End-Users (checks) and Maintainers (service) to provide for safe operation of these vehicles.

### **Key Messages**

An organisation must have rail safety accreditation before operating "Rolling Stock," a term that includes: Road-Rail vehicles, trolleys, section cars or other rail-mounted track maintenance equipment.

Accredited Operators are required to have procedures in their Safety Management Systems that address inspection and maintenance risks associated with their rolling stock.

The Guideline provides a resource to help meet that requirement. ARA provides access to CMC Codes, Standards and Guidelines free of charge to not-for-profit Australian Tourist & Heritage Organisations. They are available online at <http://www.ara.net.au/cmcentry.php>

### **Recommended Actions:**

Each organisation utilising the guideline will need to

- frame the checklist for compliance to their own document architecture and control requirements and they may need to be modified for periodicity depending on the operating environment for these vehicles.
- develop an appropriate risk analysis process, which assesses items identified as requiring attention and the periodicity of checks to determine if a vehicle can continue to be safely operated.

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