

**ASSOCIATION OF
TOURIST AND HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA**

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Australian Code of Practice – Rail Safety Investigation

The ARA's Code Management Company has published a code for the investigation of rail safety occurrences, developed jointly with the Department of Infrastructure (Victoria). The methodology therein supports the application of Australian Standard 4292 Part 7: Railway Safety Investigation (AS 4292.7). The aim of the code is to establish a consistent approach to the collection and analysis of investigation data. It builds on the best practices already used by various organisations in the industry and promotes a 'just culture' approach for all investigations.

Key Messages

If you are the subject of an investigation by your rail safety regulator, transport safety investigator or track manager (for mainline heritage operations) you can expect them to apply the ACOP methodology.

Note however that other investigators (e.g. WorkCover or the Police investigating on behalf of the coroner) may follow different processes with differing objectives.

Larger tourist & heritage organisations committed to the philosophy of being a "learning organisation" may wish to utilise the ACOP methodology for internal incident investigations.

ARA provides access to the Code free of charge to not-for-profit Australian Tourist & Heritage Organisations. It is available online at <http://www.ara.net.au/cmcentry.php>

Recommended Actions:

Not everyone needs to read everything in this code but prior familiarity with relevant sections can lessen miss-understandings in the event you are the subject of an investigation.

Section 1 describes the theoretical framework behind the code. Anyone who could be responsible for managing a rail safety investigation, or for implementing safety management policies and procedures in general, should read this section.

Section 2 describes the investigation process and how the code works in practice throughout an investigation. It contains an overview of the investigation process. Anyone involved in, or likely to be involved in, a rail safety investigation should be familiar with the contents of Section 2.

Section 3 provides guidelines and examples for organising and analysing the data collected during an investigation. It describes how to learn from occurrences and build systems to sort the material derived from an investigation in a logical and sequential way. It provides case studies and further reading for investigators and others with an interest in minimising risk and implementing safety principles within an organisation.

Section 4 provides guidelines for developing an investigation report. It also includes guidelines for managers reviewing a report and following up any safety actions resulting from it.

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Page 1 of 1