



ASSOCIATION OF TOURIST & HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA

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ATHRA ALERT #44 – October 2009 Draft Rail Industry Documents for Review

The Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB) has released the following documents for review and comment. ATHRA believes that these documents have the potential to impact on your operations in the future and that Tourist and Heritage Rail Organisations should take the opportunity to review the documents and comment during this phase of their development.

Stage 2 Rules and Procedures associated with the Australian National Rules and Procedures (ANRP) Project or the National Rulebook Project as it is more commonly known. Closing date for comment is Monday 16 November 2009. Download from:

<http://www.rissb.com.au/linkdev/site/forreview.php?committeeID=6&activityType=4>

Code of Practice for Defining Rail Safety Work - first consultation draft. The project aims to provide a clear decision-making tool which addresses the lack of practical definition in the National Model Legislation for Rail Safety Work and is based on existing rail practices and provides a case study. Closing date for comment is 11 November 2009. Download from:

<http://www.rissb.com.au/linkdev/site/forreview.php?committeeID=5&activityType=2>

Emergency Management Planning Guideline - 2nd consultation draft. This project aims to provide a national rail emergency management resource for the Australian rail industry. Closing date for comment is 9 November 2009. Download from:

<http://www.rissb.com.au/linkdev/site/forreview.php?committeeID=5&activityType=3>

Key Message

Coincident with the introduction of the Australian National Rules and Procedures (ANRP) in the commercial rail sector, T&H railways will need to assess any risks associated with difference between their existing rules and the ANRP particularly in relation to any volunteers who are also employed in the commercial sector.

While the RISSB Codes of Practice and Guidelines are not mandatory they provide good practice guidance for the rail industry as a whole. It would not be unreasonable for regulators and other authorities to test the practices of a T&H rail operation against RISSB Codes of Practice and Guidelines.

Consequently it is important for T&H organisations to take the opportunity to make comments at this time.

Recommended Actions:

Distribute this document to those people within your organisation responsible for the management of your Rail Safety Management System and Train Operations. Provide feedback to RISSB by the due dates using the comments forms provided with a copy to rail.safety@athra.asn.au so we can track the views of the sector.

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