



Information Alert



APPLICATION OF SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM GUIDELINE TO HERITAGE RAIL OPERATORS

The Rail Safety (Safety Management Systems) Guideline 2006 (SMS Guideline) was gazetted in June 2006 under section 48A of the *Rail Safety Act 2002*. The Guideline, which sets out what an accredited operator's safety management system must include, was intended to apply to all heritage rail operators from 1 January 2007.

To ensure safety management system requirements reflect the level of risk posed by individual heritage operators, ITSRR will implement a two-stage process for the application of the Safety Management System (SMS) Guideline to those operators.

Mainline and higher risk isolated line operators

For mainline and higher risk isolated line operators, the compliance date remains **1 January 2007** (as outlined in the Information Alert [New NSW Rail Safety Regulations and Guidelines 3 July 2006](#)). From 1 January 2007 these operators are required to have in place:

- a safety management system which meets the requirements set out in the SMS Guideline, or
- a 'safety improvement plan', that is, a plan to implement a safety management system which meets the requirements set out in the SMS Guideline within a reasonable timeframe.

ITSRR officers will meet with operators in February 2007 to work with them to ensure compliance with the Guideline.

Lower risk isolated line and other operators

For lower risk isolated line and other operators, compliance with the SMS Guideline has been deferred until **1 July 2008** after which these operators will be required to:

- have in place relevant aspects of a safety management system, or
- comply with conditions of accreditation.

Lower risk isolated line and other operators are:

- Campbelltown Steam Museum
- Cooma-Monaro Railway
- Dorrigo Steam Railway and Museum Ltd
- Glenreagh Mountain Railway Inc
- Goulburn Crookwell Heritage Railway Inc
- Goulburn Roundhouse Preservation Society Inc
- Guyra and District Historical Society Machinery Group Inc
- Historic Electric Traction
- Illawarra Light Railway Museum Society Ltd
- Melaleuca Station
- Millennium Parklands Railway
- Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences (Powerhouse Museum)
- New England Railway Inc
- Oberon Tarana Heritage Railway Inc
- Regional Heritage Transport Association Junee Inc
- Richmond Vale Preservation Co-op Society Ltd

- Steam Tram and Rail Preservation (Co-op) Society Ltd (Valley Heights Steam Railway)
- Tenterfield Railway Station Preservation Society
- Timbertown Heritage Steam Railway Pty Ltd.

While these accredited operators will not be required to comply with the SMS Guideline from 1 January 2007, they must still comply with relevant provisions of the *Rail Safety Act*, including s48A which requires an accredited person to have a system for identifying, managing and controlling the risks of carrying out the railway operations for which that person is accredited; guidelines relating to drug and alcohol programs, fatigue, health assessments, rail safety worker competencies and the notification of occurrences; and any conditions of accreditation.

From February 2007, ITSRR officers will review the operations of lower risk isolated line and other operators to determine the safety management system requirements and/or conditions of accreditation which will apply.

Guidance material published by the Rail Safety Regulators Panel to assist heritage operators to develop safety management systems can be downloaded from the ITSRR website at www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/rules/rail.html under 'Safety Management Systems'.



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