



Information Alert



INDUSTRY REMINDED OF OBLIGATIONS IN RELATION TO DRUGS & ALCOHOL

The Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR) reminds all railway operators and rail safety workers in NSW that they must be fully aware of and comply with mandatory requirements in relation to drugs and alcohol.

The reminder comes after a goods train driver and an assistant driver were convicted in the Downing Centre Local Court on 23 July 2007 of breaching clause 5 of the *Rail Safety (Drug and Alcohol Testing) Regulation 2003* which provides that it is an offence for a railway employee to carry out rail safety work while the prescribed concentration of alcohol is present in the employee's blood.

The men, who pleaded guilty to the offence, were each fined \$500, ordered to pay \$70 in court costs, and given an 18-month good behaviour bond. As a condition of the bond, the men must undergo drug and alcohol counselling.

Rail safety workers perform critical safety tasks requiring concentration and clear judgement. Drugs and alcohol can impair a rail safety worker's skills and ability to carry out their job effectively.

For these reasons, it is vital that employers have ongoing and rigorous programs in place that monitor and control safety related hazards posed by drugs and alcohol including testing, education, counselling and disciplinary procedures.

The *Rail Safety Act 2002*, *Rail Safety (Drug and Alcohol Testing) Regulation 2003* and Guidelines Relating to Drug and Alcohol Programs set out the requirements for drug and alcohol programs in the NSW rail industry including testing of rail safety workers.

A range of information on drug and alcohol program requirements for the NSW rail industry is available on the ITSRR website at www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au

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