



Information Alert



INDUSTRY INVITED TO COMMENT ON NEW NATIONAL GUIDELINES

National guidelines to support the adoption of the National Model Legislation (NML) and assist the rail industry to meet its obligations under the new rail safety laws have been released for public comment by the National Transport Commission (NTC).

The proposed guidelines were developed in conjunction with the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR) and national regulators across Australia and are explanatory material only – they are not mandatory.

The six guidelines are:

- **Safety Management Systems** – provides guidance for accredited rail transport operators on meeting the safety management systems requirements in the NML
- **Accreditation** – provides guidance on applying for and maintaining accreditation under the NML
- **So Far As Is Reasonably Practicable** – explains what “so far as is reasonably practicable” means in relation to the requirement in the National Model Bill to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that railway operations are safe
- **Compliance and Enforcement** – sets out a broad compliance and enforcement policy in relation to the NML
- **Uniform Administration of Accreditation** – details processes to be followed by regulators to promote consistent decision making in relation to applications for accreditation or variation of accreditation where the rail transport operator is accredited or is seeking accreditation in more than one jurisdiction
- **Fatigue** – provides guidance on developing and implementing fatigue management programs.

It should be noted that the provisions of the existing NSW mandatory guidelines relating to Drug and Alcohol Programs and Network Rules will be retained.

To view the draft national guidelines, visit the [NTC website](#). Submissions on the guidelines close on **9 May 2007** and should be forwarded to the NTC by following the instructions for lodging a submission included in the foreword of each guideline on the NTC website. If you have any inquiries regarding your submission please contact the NTC on (03) 9236 5000.

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