



Information Alert



SAFETY REGULATION OF HERITAGE RAILWAY OPERATORS – OUTCOMES OF DISCUSSION PAPER

In November 2007, the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR) released a discussion paper on safety regulation of heritage railway operations which proposed a number of strategies to help heritage railway operators meet their rail safety obligations.

ITSRR has reviewed the 17 submissions received in response to the discussion paper and, as a result of the comments received, proposes to:

1. categorise heritage operators according to three categories:
 - (a) mainline operators;
 - (b) isolated line operators; and
 - (c) museums (no passenger operations or rolling stock movements with the public in attendance).

2. apply the *Rail Safety (Safety Management Systems) Guideline 2006* (“the SMS Guideline”) to category (b) operators (other than Zig Zag Railway and the Sydney Tramway Museum) from 1 July 2008 and adopt a facilitative compliance approach during the transition to the SMS requirements under the *Rail Safety Bill 2008*. Category (b) operators must by 30 August 2008 develop an implementation plan for compliance with the SMS Guideline.

NOTE:

- The SMS Guideline will apply to category (b) operators (other than Zig Zag Railway and the Sydney Tramway Museum) from 1 July 2008.
- The SMS Guideline applied to all mainline heritage operators and to the Zig Zag Railway and the Sydney Tramway Museum from 1 January 2007.
- Category (c) operators will be given an ongoing exemption from the SMS Guideline, but will be required to have a risk register and relevant operational procedures.
- When the 2008 Bill commences, it will include a 12 month transition to the new SMS requirements.
- The SMS Guideline is broadly equivalent to the new SMS requirements and will continue to apply during the transition period.

3. conduct workshops on:
 - “how ITSRR regulates”

- governance for board members, focusing on good administrative safety management
- risk management for safety managers.

The workshops will commence this financial year in Sydney and regional locations.

Note operators should not wait to attend the workshops before preparing their implementation plans, which need to be submitted to ITSRR by 30 August 2008.

4. continue to examine how current infrastructure standards used by heritage operators may be managed until such time as Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB) standards are completed.
5. ask the Rail Safety Regulators' Panel to develop additional material for the *Safety Management System Guidance for Tourist and Heritage Railway Operators* to address gaps identified in such areas as risk management, rail safety worker competence and training, drug and alcohol testing and fatigue management.
6. in late 2008, commence:
 - developing a mentoring program for heritage operators
 - investigating potential improvements to funding frameworks
 - considering the need for an audit tool tailored to heritage operations
 - developing a Heritage Information Pack for ITSRR staff.

ITSRR does not propose any additional projects in relation to the competence of rail safety work of heritage operators at this stage, given the activities of the Transport and Logistics Industry Skills Council (TLISC) and Association of Tourist & Heritage Rail Australia (ATHRA).

The TLISC has produced a number of new units of competence for heritage rail operations, while ATHRA is developing lesson plans and training materials to assist its members in delivering units of competence for rail safety work in the heritage rail sector.

The TLISC Training Package (TLI07) includes:

- Inspect and Prepare a Heritage Stable Motive Power Unit
- Inspect and Prepare a Heritage Steam Locomotive
- Visually Inspect Stationary Heritage Train
- Operate and Monitor a Heritage Steam Locomotive
- Operate and Monitor a Heritage Motive Power Unit
- Stable and Shut Down a Heritage Steam Locomotive
- Stable and Shut Down Heritage Motive Power Unit
- Operate a Heritage Train
- Assist with Heritage Train Operations

For more information on the training package, visit the TLISC website at www.tlisc.com.au or contact the Council on (03) 9320 4242.

ITSRR's discussion paper on the safety regulation of heritage railway operations can be viewed on ITSRR's website at:

http://www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/Documents/Safety_Regulation_Heritage_Operators.pdf

A table outlining the comments received and ITSRR's responses can now be viewed on ITSRR's website at:

http://www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/publications/information_alerts/discussion_paper_comments.pdf

For a copy of the discussion paper or table to be mailed to your organisation, please contact Sue Edwards on 8263 7173 or sue.edwards@transportregulator.nsw.gov.au



Carolyn Walsh
Chief Executive