



Information Alert



RAILWAY OPERATOR OBLIGATIONS FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

In the event of a serious incident or emergency involving railway operations, it is critical that railway operators have in place effective emergency management arrangements.

NSW rail safety legislation requires railway operators to have suitable and sufficient emergency and occurrence management plans and supporting procedures. An emergency management plan is part of the safety management system (SMS) that railway operators are required to have under section 48A of the *Rail Safety Act 2002* (the Act).

To assist railway operators improve compliance with emergency management planning requirements ITSRR has prepared a Fact Sheet on [Emergency Management Planning](#).

During recent audit and inspection activities ITSRR has identified a number of common deficiencies in operators' emergency management plans and procedures. These include:

- Emergency management plans and procedures that are too complicated - they are difficult to read and understand. Further information about the required content of emergency management plans is provided in the attached Fact Sheet in the section 'What must an emergency management plan cover?'
- Emergency management plans that are not coordinated between interfacing railway operators. The emergency management plans of operators of rolling stock should be coordinated with the plans of the relevant infrastructure manager(s). Further information about the coordination of emergency management plans between railway operators is provided in the attached Fact Sheet in the section "Consultation and coordination in emergency management planning".
- Different terminology used by different railway operators for persons with similar roles which is likely to lead to confusion. The NSW State Disaster Plan (Displan) establishes protocols for terminology used to describe particular roles and responsibilities. The use of terms such as 'incident controller' to describe the person responsible for coordinating rail response at an emergency site is not consistent with the terminology defined within the NSW State Disaster Plan. ITSRR recommends railway operators adopt the term 'Rail Commander'.

Further information about the recommended roles and responsibilities of the Rail Commander are provided in the attached Fact Sheet in the section 'On site management of an occurrence'.

For further information on emergency management planning contact Jocelyn Guy, Senior Rail Safety Compliance Officer on (02) 8263 7214 or jocelyn.guy@transportregulator.nsw.gov.au



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