



Information Alert



MODEL TRAINING COURSE FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING OFFICERS AUTHORISED BY ACCREDITED RAILWAY OPERATORS

The *Rail Safety (Drug and Alcohol Testing) Regulation 2003* and the *Guidelines Relating to Drug and Alcohol Programs* were amended on 4 August 2006.

One of the key changes is that accredited railway operators are required to train and authorise their drug and alcohol testing officers.

The Guidelines now specify that railway operators must have trained their testing officers in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Guidelines by 1 January 2007. Schedule 1 includes the following requirements:

- that testing officer training be conducted by trainers who hold a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment qualification (or equivalent); and
- that testing officers must be trained in the topics listed in Schedule 1 of the Guidelines, to the extent that the topics are relevant to the testing officers' role and functions under the drug and alcohol program of the operator who authorised them.

ITSRR has developed a model training course to assist railway operators in meeting the new training requirements that are outlined in the Guidelines. The model training course is available on the ITSRR website at www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/D&A_Training_Course.html

It is intended that railway operators who use the course will tailor it to their testing officers' role and functions. However, the model training course is not mandatory.

Additional topics may be included in the training course, if they are relevant to the railway operator's drug and alcohol program.

Railway operators should ensure that the content of their testing officer training course is revised and updated as necessary, to ensure it accurately reflects any changes to the relevant legislation, the Guidelines and their drug and alcohol program, including the testing equipment and/or services used in their drug and alcohol program.

ITSRR is currently considering deferring the 1 January 2007 deadline for operators to train their testing officers in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Guidelines. Further advice will be provided shortly.

If you require any further information, please contact Cathy Dowe, Policy Officer, Regulatory Policy Unit, on (02) 8263 7142 or Alan Lidbetter, Manager, Security and Compliance Investigation, on (02) 8263 7140.

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