



Information Alert



COMMENT INVITED ON DRAFT SMS GUIDANCE FOR TOURIST AND HERITAGE RAIL TRANSPORT OPERATORS

The national model rail safety legislation was approved by Commonwealth, State and Territory Transport Ministers in 2006 and is now being implemented across Australia.

In support of the national model legislation, an initial suite of guidelines was developed. Further to this, the Rail Safety Regulators' Panel (RSRP) identified a need to review the *Safety Management System (SMS) Guidance for Tourist and Heritage Rail Transport Operators* to ensure the national model legislation requirements were reflected.

This document is intended to provide guidance for new applicants for accreditation to assist them in developing their SMS, and to assist existing accredited operators with updating their SMS to meet any new or additional requirements contained in the national model legislation. The guidance material has been developed with the assistance of a reference group comprising representatives from rail safety regulators and tourist and heritage operators.

The draft guidance material has now been released for public consultation and comments are encouraged from any interested person or organisation. Comments should be provided in writing by **12 June 2009** and forwarded to Cathy Dowe by email at cathy.dowe@transportregulator.nsw.gov.au, fax on 8263 7200, or post at PO Box A2633, Sydney South, 1235.

A copy of the draft guidance material can be located at www.rsrp.asn.au/publications.cfm

Unless requested otherwise, comments will be made public. Your organisation and any individuals associated with it can choose to have the comments de-identified or not made public, but if not requested, it will be taken that there has been consent to the comments being made public. Please advise this at the time of lodging your comments.

Please note that the draft guideline is being distributed for comment by the rail safety regulator in each state and territory. Therefore, you may receive the draft guideline from more than one regulator. It is preferred that comments are provided to the 'principal' regulator for your accreditation. All comments will be collated and referred to the RSRP for consideration.

Carolyn Walsh
Chief Executive