



# Information Alert



## INDUSTRY REMINDED OF DRUGS & ALCOHOL OBLIGATIONS

The Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR) reminds all rail transport operators and rail safety workers in NSW that they must understand and comply with mandatory requirements in relation to drugs and alcohol.

The reminder comes after a maintenance worker was recently convicted of carrying out railway safety work with a prescribed concentration of alcohol in breath or blood.

The defendant was placed on a good behaviour bond for 12 months and ordered to pay \$317 in court and professional costs.

Rail safety workers perform critical safety tasks requiring concentration and clear judgement. Drugs and alcohol can impair a rail safety worker's skills and ability to carry out their job effectively. For these reasons, it is vital that employers have ongoing and rigorous programs in place that monitor and control safety related hazards posed by drugs and alcohol including testing, education, counselling and disciplinary procedures.

The *Rail Safety Act 2008* and *Rail Safety (Drug and Alcohol Testing) Regulation 2008* set out the current requirements for drug and alcohol programs in the NSW rail industry including testing of rail safety workers.

A comprehensive fact sheet on drug and alcohol program requirements for the NSW rail industry is available on the ITSRR website at:

[http://www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/publications/rail\\_facts\\_2008.html](http://www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/publications/rail_facts_2008.html)

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