



Information Alert

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING OFFICER AUTHORISATIONS ISSUED UNDER THE 2003 REGULATION WILL EXPIRE ON 1 JANUARY 2010

Accredited rail transport operators must ensure that all their drug and alcohol testing officers are authorised under the *Rail Safety (Drug and Alcohol Testing) Regulation 2008* (the 2008 Regulation) before 1 January 2010.

The *Rail Safety Act 2008* allows testing officers who were authorised under the previous *Rail Safety (Drug & Alcohol Testing) Regulation 2003* to be taken to be authorised under the 2008 Regulation until 1 January 2010, after which their authorisations will expire.

They do not need to be retrained, as the changes in the 2008 Regulation are not significant in terms of the legal powers of testing officers.

Nevertheless, testing officers should be aware of the changes in the 2008 Regulation and training courses should be updated in line with these changes, which primarily relate to:

- changes in terminology;
- the incorporation of the previous ITSRR *Guidelines relating to Drug & Alcohol Programs* into Part 2 of the 2008 Regulation;
- changes to clause numbers; and
- the publication of the revised Australian/New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 4308:2008, *Procedures for specimen collection and the detection and quantitation of drugs of abuse in urine*.

ITSRR's model training course for testing officers has been updated in this regard and can be viewed on ITSRR's website at <http://www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/aboutUs/training.html>

Accredited rail transport operators must therefore ensure that:

- (1) all their testing officers are issued with a certificate of authorisation under clause 4 of the *Rail Safety (Drug & Alcohol Testing) Regulation 2008* before 1 January 2010;**
- (2) their testing officers are aware of the changes in the 2008 Regulation; and**
- (3) the content of their testing officer training courses is revised and updated in line with the changes in the 2008 Regulation.**

If you require further information, please contact Cathy Dowe, Policy Officer, on (02) 8263 7142.

Len Neist
Chief Executive