Further information

You can find more information on items mentioned in this leaflet:

- The Standards Manual
  - through the RSSB website www.rssb.co.uk
- The Catalogue of RGSs
  - through www.rgsonline.co.uk
- In other leaflets in the ‘Tell me about …’ series on:
  - Changing Railway Group Standards
  - Industry Committees for Standards
These and other leaflets are available on the RSSB website.

Any feedback on this leaflet? Please let us know at:
standardsleaflets@rssb.co.uk
Introduction

This leaflet provides information about Rail Industry Standards (RISs). These are standards produced by the GB rail industry for the industry, which the industry can choose to adopt.

The leaflet may be of particular interest to:

- People who manage projects or operations in the rail industry.
- People in the rail industry whose work involves the management of standards.
- Suppliers, manufacturers or maintainers of railway components, subsystems and vehicles.

Why are there Railway Group Standards and RISs?

Railway Group Standards define what must be done where compatibility is required between technical or functional railway subsystems. Compliance with Railway Group Standards is mandatory.

RISs define functional or technical requirements in circumstances where compatibility between railway subsystems is not required, but the rail industry has identified a need for a standard. A RIS will be produced when there are benefits to the rail industry; one of these benefits may be that each company does not have to develop and produce its own standards. RISs can also be used as design standards.

Who can use a RIS?

Any industry member, whether or not they are an infrastructure manager or railway undertaking, can choose to adopt all or part of a RIS through company procedures or contract conditions. The industry member should make clear what parts of the RIS it is adopting and how it is going to do this.

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How can I propose a new RIS or a change to a RIS?

RISs are industry’s standards, managed by industry. Decisions on RISs – such as the need for a RIS and the approval of its content – are made by standards committees, which are made up of industry representatives. Industry is consulted on all draft RISs before they are approved and published.

You can use the proposal form that can be found on the RSSB website and on the RGS Online website. In the case of a proposal for a new RIS, the relevant standards committee will need to be convinced that there is a commitment from a group of industry members to work to the RIS and that the RIS will actually be used.

RISs are produced in accordance with the arrangements approved by the Industry Standards Coordination Committee (ISCC) and which are set out in the Standards Manual.

How do I deviate from a RIS?

Due to the nature of a RIS, there is no need to apply to RSSB to deviate from it. If your organisation has adopted the RIS as a company standard, you will need to follow your organisation’s procedures for deviating from the company standard.

Where can I find if there is a RIS on the subject area I am interested in?

You can find RISs on www.rgsonline.co.uk. This is the definitive source of RISs. The website shows all amendments and clarifications for RISs as well as supporting documents such as briefing notes. Withdrawn or superseded RISs are also available.

You might also find the ‘Catalogue of RGSSs’ useful. This contains a list of all current RISs and it is also published on www.rgsonline.co.uk (see the link to the catalogue on the front page of the website). Amendments and clarifications to current RISs appear in the catalogue. The catalogue is updated and published quarterly by RSSB.

If you need hard copies of a RIS or the catalogue, you can order them directly from the printers (see the details on www.rgsonline.co.uk).