



Rail Safety & Standards Board

INFORMATION BULLETIN



RISAS Launch

RISAS Board from left to right - Richard McClean (GNER), Ian Papworth (ATOC), Richard Gostling (RIA), Keith Rose (Porterbrook), Jon Leigh (Faverly Transportation), Mark Zawisza (Interfleet), Maurice Wilsdon (RSSB)

A new scheme, designed to reduce cost to the industry, improve quality, and support duty holder legal requirements has been launched.

The Railway Industry Supplier Approval Scheme (RISAS) is aimed initially at critical components and services used in train overhauls. This is an area that represents a major opportunity for efficiency, as there are many customers and a complex supply chain.

Currently, suppliers can be subject to multiple audits by their different customers. The scheme will create a single transferable third party assessment in which customers can have confidence, and identify suppliers as 'RISAS Approved' for various defined product groups.

The assessors, employed by Rail Industry Supplier Approval Bodies (RISAB's), are required to have technical and assessment skills, a thorough appreciation of the key issues and the ability to see under the surface. Accreditation of the assessment bodies is undertaken and overseen by Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB). A cross-industry board, with a mix of engineering, procurement and logistics expertise has been established to manage the scheme. It is chaired by Ian Papworth, Acting Engineering Director of ATOC.

Suppliers and rail industry customers can find out more at www.risas-online.org

For further information contact the **RISAS scheme administrator** by email at risas.admin@rssb.co.uk.

Management of football fans on the railway

RSSB recently hosted a workshop on the management of football fans on the railway. The attendees for the workshop included representatives from train operators, Network Rail, British Transport and other Police, Football Association, the Football Fans Federation, Football Licensing Authority, Passenger Focus and the National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport Workers.

Every football season, there are over 3.5 million rail journeys solely for the purpose of attending football matches around the UK. The behaviour of football fans has a considerable impact on train services, rail staff and other passengers. Apart from the operating challenge of conveying large groups of football fans,



train operators are regularly faced with the difficulties of managing the violence and abusive behaviour associated with a small minority of those attending football matches, much of it fuelled by alcohol.

Attendees heard presentations and case-studies on the problems and issues faced by Train Operating Companies. Draft recommendations were presented and debated at break-out sessions. Preliminary recommendations include a need to establish a common approach to tackle the issues, a greater exchange of information and improved liaison between the industry, clubs and their supporters.

The research (T592) is still in progress and the final report will be published on the RSSB website. For more information contact **Paul McGuire, research manager** on **020 7554 4607** or email paul.mcguire@rssb.co.uk

Standards News

Responsibilities at Stations

From June this year a new facility has been added to the Rail Safety and Standards Board website. The Guidance Note GE/GN8518, Identification of Responsibilities at Stations, has been replaced by this web-based summary of all requirements held in Railway Group Standards relevant to stations. The new facility will be updated bi-monthly in line with the issue of the Catalogue of Railway Group Standards.

Those responsible for the management of stations are now able to view all requirements that apply to them and look at specific areas of responsibility through the use of simple search criteria. The results can be viewed on screen, printed as hard copy or saved to a spreadsheet.

This facility can be found from the navigation sidebar under Railway Group Standards - Information on standards related issues, or directly via www.rssb.co.uk/station_responsibilities.asp.

For more information contact **Ray Smith, project manager** on **020 7904 7718** or email: ray.smith@rssb.co.uk.

Industry Review of Good Practice Guides RS/ 220, RS/ 501,RS/ 701

Following industry requests, RSSB is undertaking a review of the existing Good Practice Guides and supporting competence management material in the area of training, simulation and assessment to align these to the proposed changes in the Railway Group Standards for Train Driving RT/GO3251 and Competence Management RT/GO3260.

Mark Medley, Operations Standards Manager for South Eastern Railway, is on full time secondment to RSSB for the next three months to undertake the work in

conjunction with Lesley Hodsdon, Senior Workforce Development Specialist. Mark is leading a project team involving input from various train operators including Southern, Virgin Trains and One Railway through the Simulator User Group. Network Rail and other industry stakeholders are also being consulted to make input to the revised draft good practice guides. It is being conducted at an industry level to ensure relevance to current best practice and reflect changes in the operational environment following significant investment in training simulators by Train Operating companies and Network Rail.

For more details contact **Lesley Hodsdon, senior workforce development specialist** on **020 7904 7969** or email lesley.hodsdon@rssb.co.uk.

The Rule Book – looking forward

The GB rail industry has co-operated to publish a set of common national operating rules for interworking since 1876. The most recent version, 51 activity-based modules, was introduced in December 2003. The strategy going forward is driven by industry needs to improve operational efficiency while maintaining and improving safety performance. Although no structural changes to format of the Rule Book are proposed we are always seeking to improve the processes for managing rules changes.

RSSB is supporting a number of industry groups, including the Standards Committees, Operational Efficiencies Group and ATOC Operations Council, as well as individual stakeholders, in several key initiatives which will have an impact on operating practices during the next two years.

On-Track Plant and On-Track Machines: rules changes to be implemented in December 2006 will improve clarity and productivity. Changes will include new operating practices, trialled on West Coast and Great Western, delivering more work in the available possession time, with less disruption to train services. The work was requested by Network Rail and the On-Track Plant Operators and is being led by RSSB Operations Specialists.

Track-worker safety and protection arrangements: changes to modules T2 and T12 for December 2006 will deliver simpler rules for protection and make 'green zones' more practicable. The work, initiated by TSSG, involved drafting work, peer review and risk assessment from RSSB.

Defective on-train equipment: RSSB has initiated an important piece of work to understand the risks presented by defects and the fitness for purpose of the controls now in place. Phase 1 is complete and changes to rules concerning defective doors are being progressed. RSSB is managing this through a group of train operators and Network Rail experts, with external risk assessment support, on behalf of ATOC.

Degraded operations: a fundamental review of rules managing degraded situations is progressing, involving changes to train working arrangements ('emergency block working').

Safety communications: at the request of train operators and Operations Efficiency Group, RSSB has



commissioned work to assess the risks of changes to rules for communications between signallers and drivers.

Signalling regulations: a re-issue of the train signalling modules is scheduled for December 2007, which will include the greatest changes to absolute block regulations for over 100 years. This project is led by RSSB Operations experts at the request of Network Rail.

For more information please contact: **Richard Evans, head of standards delivery (TOM)** on 020 7904 7633 or email richard.evans@rssb.co.uk.

Got an issue with a Railway Group Standard? Call the **RSSB Enquiry Desk** on 020 7904 7518 or email enquirydesk@rssb.co.uk.

If that doesn't sort out the issue - let me know, **Anson Jack, director, Standards**, on 020 7904 7518.

Track Safety Strategy Group

Since the latter days of British Rail, the cross industry Track Safety Strategy Group (TSSG) has existed to champion changes to the safety regime for trackside workers. This group has continued to be active through the Railtrack regime and has continued until this year being facilitated most recently by RSSB. During its life, the TSSG has played a major role in promoting numerous improvements such as the introduction of Automatic Track Warning Systems, Track Circuit Operating Devices, numerous rule book changes and the COSS and PTS handbooks.

Recent changes to the management of work on Network Rail's infrastructure have led to a review of the group's role. As a result, the group is being disbanded and the bulk of its role will be undertaken within Network Rail's normal management structure and further information will be circulated accordingly.

Safety Net 29 will also give more information about future arrangements. For more details contact **Mick Stormonth, project manager, National Initiatives** on 020 7904 7513 or email mick.stormonth@rssb.co.uk.

Safety Legislation Seminar and Update

RSSB held the second of its annual half-day Safety Legislation Seminars on 24 May. The purpose of these

events is to update RSSB member companies on the latest developments in safety legislation and they are designed to expand on RSSB's quarterly Safety Legislation Update publication. About 50 delegates heard speakers from RSSB, Health and Safety Executive, and the Department for Communities & Local Government. David Leckie from the law firm Maclay, Murray and Spens ended the seminar with a thought provoking session on corporate manslaughter. The next seminar is planned for May 2007 and RSSB member companies will be contacted in advance. The Safety Legislation Update is available on the RSSB website at <http://www.rssb.co.uk/sli.asp>.

For more information contact **Steve McKay, policy advisor** on 020 7904 7527 or email steve.mckay@rssb.co.uk.

Occupational Health Toolkit

RSSB recently presented the Occupational Health Toolkit and guidance developed for the rail industry by the RSSB managed industry R & D programme. The seminar focused on why employee health management is important and considered two research projects – Management of health needs and Management of health conditions and diseases. The studies were carried out with industry support to help improve awareness of these issues and considered rail industry case studies.

As part of its legislative obligations, the railway industry needs to have in place arrangements that secure good occupational health management practice. The toolkit will be of interest to railway line managers responsible for the health and safety of their staff, HR managers, occupational safety personnel and other managers with who have responsibility of setting and maintaining the company's health and safety policy.

To find out more contact **Aqeel Janjua, research project manager** on 020 7554 4612 or email aqeel.janjua@rssb.co.uk

To obtain a copy of the Toolkit contact the **RSSB enquiry desk** on 020 7904 7518

Safety Policy Group

The Safety Policy Group was first established in 2005 as a means of providing RSSB with advice from the industry in policy areas. The group includes representatives from Network Rail, Association of Train Operators, Railway Industry Association, freight operators; the Department for Transport and Office of Rail Regulation attend as observers. One of the initial tasks of the group, which meets monthly, was to oversee production of the 2006 Strategic Safety Plan. For 2007 onwards, the group has developed a new, three year, approach to the Plan which will more closely reflect the



content of individual company safety plans. The group also offers support and advice to the UK representatives on the European Rail Agency working parties.

For more information contact **Steve McKay, policy advisor** on **020 7904 7527** or email at **steve.mckay@rssb.co.uk**.



Attendees at a recent SPG meeting.

They are - **BACK ROW:** Rob Andrews (ORR), Keith Watson (CTRL), Giles Thomas (DfT), Karen Davies (DfT), John Abbott (Network Rail), Richard Hulland (ISLG), Pat Daly (Freight Operators), David Weir (ATOC)

FRONT ROW: Aidan Nelson (RSSB), Steve McKay (RSSB), Shamit Gaiger (RSSB), Tim Gilbert (ROSCOs)

UK representation on the European Railway Agency

The European Railway Agency (ERA) has established a number of working groups, populated by industry and member state representatives. Association of Train Operating Companies, Network Rail and the Railway Industry Association are represented through the Community of European Railways (CER), European Rail Infrastructure Managers (EIM) and the Union of the European Rail Supply Industries (UNIFE) respectively to develop proposals to implement key requirements of the Safety and Interoperability Directives. In the area of 'Safety' there is the requirement to develop Common Safety Indicators, Common Safety Targets, Common Safety Methods and Safety Certification/Authorisation and working groups have been established for each topic. Working groups have also been established to develop the Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSI) required by the Interoperability Directive.

The UK has experts on each of the working groups, who were nominated by the representative bodies (CER, EIM, UNIFE, European Rail Freight Association (ERFA))

and the National safety authority for each country - ORR in Britain. In order to provide support to the UK 'Safety' representatives, RSSB has established a regular forum where the experts meet on a monthly basis to exchange information and ensure that consistent messages are being given to the different working groups. Any of the UK representatives may request input or advice on a particular subject from RSSB's Safety Policy Group (see earlier article) which will provide a briefing on the industry's views which may be taken back to the ERA working group.

Support for the UK representatives on the 'Interoperability' working groups is facilitated by RSSB through the Standards Committees, which consider issues relating to agreed Railway Group Standards and European standards. Through this 'mirroring' activity RSSB helps the industry to ensure consistency between Railway Group Standards and the TSIs, and that the list of Notified National Technical Rules is kept up to date.

Information on the European Rail Agency can be found at www.era.eu.int or for 'safety' from **Graham Arkwright, policy advisor** on **020 7904 7963** or email: **graham.arkwright@rssb.co.uk**. For 'interoperability' contact **Adam Milligan, head of systems co-ordination** on **020 7904 7629** or email: **adam.milligan@rssb.co.uk**.

Spotlight

Wayfinding Good Practice Guide

A good practice guide on Wayfinding developed as an industry R & D output has been produced by RSSB and will be distributed to station operators. The guide was developed following earlier work improving signage for passengers needing to evacuate from trains following accidents.

The research and guide considered the following key themes:

- There are no common guidelines documented for delivering a wayfinding strategy across the industry.
- Good wayfinding information improves the user's journey experience and contributes to maintaining station operations and safety.
- Each station presents its own wayfinding requirements.
- Operators should provide services that meet the needs of all their customers.
- The rail industry has invested in a variety of wayfinding systems at stations.
- Maintenance of wayfinding information is fragmented and inconsistent across the rail industry.
- There are conflicts between wayfinding information and other station requirements.
- There is no common guidelines document for selecting dynamic display technologies.

To obtain a copy of the **Wayfinding Good Practice Guide** contact the **RSSB enquiry desk** on **020 7904 7518**.