



Rail Safety & Standards Board

INFORMATION BULLETIN

RSSB influences changes to Highway Code and Driving Theory Test

The National Level Crossing Steering Group (NLXSG), facilitated by RSSB, achieved a major step forward in improving level crossing safety awareness amongst level crossing users with important changes in the recently revised Highway Code and Theory Test for learner drivers.

The traditional approach to level crossing risk saw it as a 'railway problem' with little involvement from road authorities. However, over the last four years representatives of the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) and the CSS (formerly known as the County Surveyors' Society) have become active members of NLXSG and great progress has been made.

As a result of this important partnership with the DSA, there is now a much improved section on level crossings in the new Highway Code, which should increase awareness of the hazards presented by overhead lines, the application of tactile surfaces for visually-impaired pedestrians, the requirement for horse-riders to dismount, in addition to the full explanation of what's required of road-users in response to the relevant light signals and signs.

Additionally, the DSA has incorporated more questions on level crossing safety which can be selected as part of

the Driving Theory Test, which learners must take and pass before booking the practical test.

For more information on RSSB's work on level crossings, contact **Alan Davies, programme manager, community safety, national programmes – operations** on **020 7904 7964** or email alan.davies@rssb.co.uk

7th Yellow Book User Group Conference

The new Yellow Book, (volume 2 issue 4) will be launched under the theme 'A Safe and Fit for Purpose Railway' at a conference which will take place in London on 27 November 2007.

There will be opportunities for networking with industry peers, to hear presentations from a range of engineering safety management practitioners and workshop sessions to discuss and share ideas.

Topics under discussion include:

- Taking safe decisions
- Compatibility of infrastructure and rolling stock
- Safe and fit for purpose - an operations view / an international view
- LUL experience of Yellow Book for maintenance
- Goal structuring notation

To register, please contact **Stella Okezie, conference manager** on **020 7904 7934** or email: stella.okezie@rssb.co.uk

Wanted – Community Safety Images

RSSB is currently contributing to the update of the TRACKOFF educational website aimed at providing teachers with the resources they need to teach children and young people about railway safety. To aid this, we're looking for pictures of community safety initiatives, whether they be murals, educational trips, railway crime incidents, CCTV cameras and security staff.

Can you help?

If so, please email your pictures to **Kerry Dolan, programme manager, community safety** at kerry.dolan@rssb.co.uk and if you have any questions, please call Kerry on **020 7904 7674**.

Date For Your Diary - Railway Community Safety Forum 2008

Wednesday 19 March 2008, National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham
For more information, please email: kerry.dolan@rssb.co.uk



Standards News

- **GE/RT8270 Issue 2 - Assessment of Compatibility of Rolling Stock and Infrastructure – replaces Route Acceptance**

Before any new or changed infrastructure or rolling stock is brought into use, it is essential that the change is assessed to ensure that compatibility between assets is maintained.

European Directives concerning safety and interoperability have been implemented in the UK by the introduction of the Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006 and the Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2006. Each railway undertaking and infrastructure manager is responsible for the safety of their own part of the railway system. Neither party gives permission to or has authority over the other. If authorisation for placing into service is required, this is given by the national safety authority. In Great Britain, the national safety authority is the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). The Railways and Other Guided Transportation System (Safety) Regulations 2006 mandate a 'duty of cooperation' between the parties responsible for the management of the railway system. This has altered the manner in which rolling stock and infrastructure are brought into service.

Industry, through the Industry Standards Coordination Committee (ISCC), therefore recognised the need to define a new process specifying how railway undertakings and the infrastructure managers co-operate to assess compatibility of rolling stock and infrastructure. A new standard, GE/RT8270 issue 2, has been introduced to achieve this. This new standard, on which industry representatives achieved consensus, provides a basis for railway undertakings and infrastructure managers to co-operate in establishing the compatibility of infrastructure and rolling stock that will facilitate their compliance with their regulatory responsibilities. The reference number GE/RT8270 has been retained for this new standard (as issue 2) because, although the requirements are entirely new, it replaces the requirements of GE/RT8270 issue 1 (titled Route Acceptance of Rail Vehicles including changes in Operation or Infrastructure) relating to compatibility.

A key element of the process of co-operation set out in GE/RT8270 issue 2 is that it provides affected parties

with the opportunity to review the assessment of compatibility undertaken by the proposer of change. The review process is conducted with the objective of achieving a consensus. It is recognised that it will not always be possible to reach a consensus. In this case, GE/RT8270 requires the issue to be escalated using the railway industry's accepted processes. RSSB has developed and are about to publish 'A Guide to ROGS Regulation 22 Duty of Cooperation between Transport Operators'. This document will set out the 'railway industry's accepted processes' that should be used in this circumstance.

The new standard was approved by a Multifunctional Standards Committee on 25 September 2007, with a publication date of 1 October 2007. A copy can be found at www.rsgonline.co.uk.

For more information contact **Jon Taylor, head of standards delivery, infrastructure and rolling stock** on **0207 904 7657** email jon.taylor@rssb.co.uk or **Cliff Cork, principal rolling stock engineer** on **0207 904 7654** email cliff.cork@rssb.co.uk

Driver Training Conference

The fourth Driver Training Conference, organised by RSSB on behalf of the industry, took place on 18 September at the Lakeside Conference Centre, Aston, Birmingham.



The aim of the conference was to provide a technical update for the industry on all aspects of driver training and competence management and to provide an opportunity for industry professionals to meet and share knowledge, understanding and good practice.

The event attracted 80 delegates from across the industry and was chaired by John Bendon of Virgin Trains. The day began with presentations on Operations Training and The Use of Simulators for Eco-Driving. The delegates then participated in syndicate sessions which covered subjects on Adult Learning Styles, Professional Driving Policies and Training, Route Learning and



Conducting, Driver Training and Simulation and Training for Planned and Unplanned Events.

For more information please contact **Susan Cassidy**, programme manager, operational safety on **020 7904 7475** or email susan.cassidy@rssb.co.uk

Shunting Safety Workshop

The Shunting Safety Workshop, an event jointly sponsored by RSSB and ATOC, took place on 14th September at the Wellcome Trust Conference Centre, London.

The aim of the conference was to facilitate discussion and good practice exchange on practical steps to improve the safety of full and part time shunters across the railway.

The event attracted over 80 delegates from mainline operators, industrial operators and heritage railways, and was chaired by Steve Bence of ATOC. The format was a mixture of presentations followed by interactive Q & A sessions. John Abbott of RSSB introduced the morning session by providing a risk overview. This was followed by presentations from the ORR and RAIB. Presentations by EWS, Alstom, Arriva Train Wales, RSSB and South West Trains provided an overview of experiences and initiatives undertaken to improve shunting safety including an overview of Human Factors.

The output of the workshop is currently being revised by the Operations Focus Group and is expected to drive a co-ordinated improvement campaign over the next 12 months.

For more information please contact **Catherine Gallagher**, programme manager, operational safety on **020 7904 7726** or email catherine.gallagher@rssb.co.uk.

Reminder – Strategic Board Papers available on RSSB website

RSSB's Strategic Board papers contain intelligence and analysis covering a range of topics on which RSSB can help the industry are published after each board

meeting, together with a short summary of conclusions and next steps as agreed by the board.

Earlier this year the board of RSSB decided that it would restructure its board agenda to consider in more detail the major industry risks and development opportunities, where RSSB has a role to play.

Two generic types of risk were identified: firstly System Safety Risk, an analysis of which can be derived from the latest version of the Safety Risk Model (version 5) and secondly more general cost, performance and reputation risk referred to as 'Other Strategic Risk' where RSSB services play a supportive role and can have significant impact.

Each board meeting now considers one system safety risk and one other strategic risk and working with stakeholders RSSB produces comprehensive discussion papers for each that cover the following points:

- Identification of the current state of the risk or opportunity, including trends in terms of industry objectives (cost, performance, safety and capacity)
- An overview of activities the industry is undertaking to address the risk and what is expected to change in the future
- A summary of industry arrangements to manage the risk (eg. the existence of cross-industry groups, processes, relevant standards etc)
- A review of issues for strategic resolution and definition of further work needed
- Any proposed changes to arrangements

To read more, go to the RSSB website at: http://www.rssb.co.uk/publications/board_discussion/ind_ex.asp

Safety Performance Reporting is for the industry's benefit! Can you help us improve it?

The prime purpose of RSSB's Safety Performance Reports (SPRs) is to aid those who manage risk. This is particularly important in an industry where almost every policy, investment or operational decision has an impact on safety and on other players in the industry.

RSSB is passionate to ensure that we deliver the information you need to help you manage safety with the greatest efficacy.

Our recently produced, pocket-sized *Key facts and figures* booklet elicited an excellent reaction from our stakeholders – and we thank you all for that. (It was even



described it as a 'delicious document'!) But there's always room for more improvement, and now it is even easier to tell us how we can help.

Although we are happy to accept feedback by traditional means (ie, via phone or post), you can now give feedback directly via our website at <http://www.rssb.co.uk/safety/spr/spreports.asp>. The Safety Performance Reports page now contains brief abstracts of all the reports thereon, along with a link to a feedback form for that specific document. Those included at present are:

- Annual safety performance report 2006.
- Monthly summary of safety performance.
- SPAD/TPWS monthly and quarterly reports.
- Half-year safety performance report 2007.

The following topic-specific reports are also available:

- Level crossing safety (June 2006).
- Railway crime (July 2006).
- Station safety (September 2006).
- Workforce safety (November 2006).

We do encourage you to give us feedback so that our documents can develop to better meet your needs!

For more information on Safety Performance Reports contact **Liz Davies, safety intelligence strategy manager** on **020 7904 7493** or email liz.davies@rssb.co.uk

Events

Date	Name of event	Location
31 October 2007	Railways – A Sustainable Future Conference 2007	The Wellcome Trust Centre, Euston, London NW1
8 November 2007	The ROGS One-Year-On Conference 2007	The Wellcome Trust Centre, Euston, London NW1
16 November 2007	Vehicle Track SIC Seminar	Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell Street, London WC1
27 November 2007	Yellow Book Conference	Congress Centre, 28 Great Russell Street, London WC1

For more information on these events, please contact **Stella Okezie, conference manager** on **020 7904 7934** or email stella.okezie@rssb.co.uk

Vehicle Track Interaction Strategic Model (VTISM) Stage 1 delivered

On behalf of the Vehicle/Track System Interface Committee and in partnership with Network Rail, RSSB has delivered Stage 1 of the Vehicle Track Interaction Strategic Model (VTISM).

VTISM models the engineering of vehicle track interaction and the costs associated with remedying degradation; it links inputs such as track and vehicle characteristics to outputs such as rail life, wheel life and maintenance regimes. It will support industry players who are working to optimise track and vehicle design and maintenance and is being developed in a number of stages.

Stage 1 provides the track related maintenance and renewal outputs and costs and embodies in one package the algorithms and processes used in an initial study to predict the track damage caused by alternative design configurations for the Intercity Express Programme (IEP), a new generation of high speed diesel trains. Having now designed and developed VTISM Stage 1, its predictions were validated against the results of the initial study.

RSSB enlisted additional expertise for the project from Serco Assurance and Delta Rail, who have now trained rail engineers so that VTISM can be tested on further projects. The project was a joint winner of the award for Innovation of Year at the National Rail Awards in September. Licences to use the model are available through RSSB and can be taken up by any party that can show how they could use it to support improvement in the performance of the GB railway system.

For further technical information, please contact the RSSB Enquiry desk:

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 Fax: 020 7557 9072
 Email: enquirydesk@rssb.co.uk

For licence enquiries only please contact **Skye Godfrey, commercial manager** on **020 7904 7776** or email skye.godfrey@rssb.co.uk

Log on to our website:
www.rssb.co.uk