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New app launched to reduce risk at the platform edge

Fewer people would get hurt while getting on and off trains if station operators use a new app for recording platform risk assessments, says the industry's independent safety body, RSSB.

Last year, nearly 1,500 incidents took place at the edge of railway station platforms. Most end up causing only minor injuries, but improving the way that data about these incidents is recorded could help to reduce the number of people being hurt while using the rail network.

Assessments of risk should be carried out regularly on each of the British railway's 5,000 platforms to identify areas which could pose a risk to passengers and the public. Traditionally those risk assessments have been carried out as a paper-based exercise with no commonality and little sharing of information.

RSSB's Platform Train Interface (PTI) Risk Assessment Tool is a web-based and mobile application available to download now in Google Play and the App Store. The tool allows users to complete assessments on the platform in real time. Information can be collated anywhere on a platform and then synchronised with the tool using a Wi-Fi connection.

"The new tool has been developed to streamline the way risk to passengers as they board trains is assessed", said the Chairman of the PTI Strategy Implementation Group, Allan Spence. "Britain's railway is one of the safest in Europe but as the network carries an ever increasing number of passengers we have to continually look for ways to keep those people safe."

"Preventing injuries relies on the industry's ability to better understand what causes them. Companies managing mainline stations will now be able to share a common, transparent approach to sharing information and prioritising work to make stations and platforms even safer", Mr Spence continued.



The tool has been tested and piloted with a limited number of TOCs and Network Rail. Staff at Network Rail who took part in the trial said they found the tool very easy to use, data input was good and they liked the user guidance in regard to the scoring system.

Steve Riley from the Safety Team at MerseyRail said, “The PTI tool has been well received at MerseyRail. Our station managers in particular got a lot out of it and it gave them a better understanding of PTI risk”.

A representative from East Midlands Trains said, “The tool in effect talks you through the process so you cannot really go wrong. It covers a lot of areas not just about PTI. I like the thought that all stations will have the same format for their risk assessments going forward”.

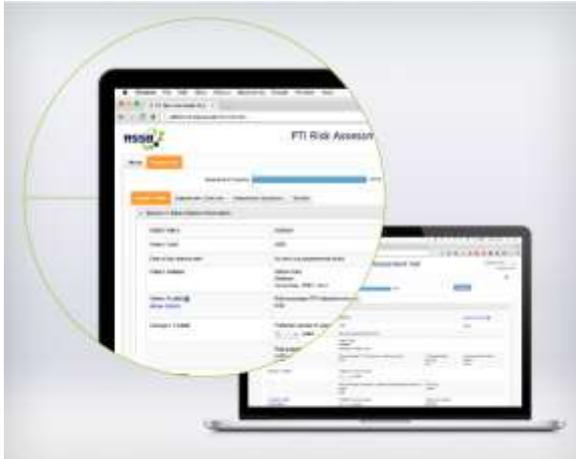
A single database sits behind the tool that will capture the data, helping each company to review their PTI risk assessments and consider PTI risk across their entire operation. The information can also be collated nationally by RSSB to understand trends across the GB rail network and help to inform the approaches set out in the PTI strategy.

The tool, which was developed in conjunction with RSK Business Solutions and with input from staff across the GB Railway Network who undertake PTI risk assessments, allows users to:

- Identify the types of hazardous events that commonly occur at the platform edge
- Assess the sufficiency of risk control measures already in place, relating to, for example, station design and management, platform characteristics and operation; train design and dispatch; passenger characteristics and behaviour
- Determine approaches to improve existing risk controls based on the risk assessment scores.

Anyone responsible for carrying out platform risk assessments and wishes to use the web tool needs to email enquirydesk@rssb.co.uk to obtain a login and password to the system. Once they have access the app can be downloaded and used in conjunction with the web tool.

Screenshots of PTI Risk Assessment app



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For further information, please contact RSSB's press office line via pressoffice@rssb.co.uk or 020 3142 5653.

Notes to Editors:

About RSSB

Through research, analysis, and insight RSSB supports our members and stakeholders to deliver a safer, more efficient and sustainable rail system. Our vision is to be a centre of excellence, valued by its members and stakeholders as an essential contributor to their success. Our independent evidence based approach is built on strong technical capability, and the enabling of collaborative industry engagement for the benefit of the whole rail system

Website: www.rssb.co.uk

Twitter: @RSSB_rail

About RSK-BSL

RSK Business Solutions Ltd was registered in the UK in its current form in July 2009. However, the essence of the company and its longer serving employees date back to 1994 when it was trading as management consultancy Shear Management Ltd. Since 1994 we have adapted and



grown as the technical requirements and expectations of our clients have progressed and today we have around 70 staff and offer development and consultancy services using the most up to date technology. To ensure RSK Business Solutions Ltd remain in the forefront of the latest innovations and technologies, the company invests a proportion of its turnover into R&D projects.

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