

Notification of NSRs

Directive 2004/49/EC requires member states to notify NSRs to the European Commission (EC). In the UK, this is done by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in its role as the UK national safety authority.

The current situation regarding the notification of NSRs can be found on the ORR's website. RSSB advises the ORR about which requirements in RGSs meet the definition of an NSR, so they can be notified in accordance with Directive 2004/49/EC.

Further information

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

- ORR's website www.rail-reg.gov.uk
- RSSB's website (www.rssb.co.uk)
- The RGS Online website (www.rgsonline.co.uk)
- In other leaflets in the 'Tell me about ...' series on:
 - Railway Group Standards

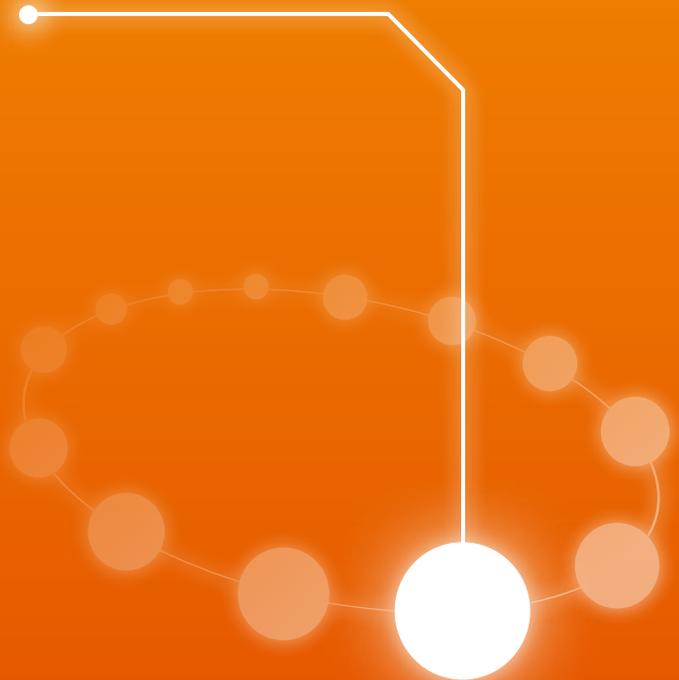
These and other leaflets are available on the RSSB website.

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



Tell me about...

National Safety Rules For The GB Mainline Railway



Introduction

This leaflet may be of particular interest to:

- People who manage the operational railway.
- People responsible for the Safety Management Systems (SMSs) of infrastructure managers or railway undertakings.
- People who manage projects to change or introduce new railway vehicles or infrastructure.

Why do we need National Safety Rules?

The Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations (ROGS) 2006 (as amended) requires SMSs for the mainline railway to be “established to ensure that the mainline railway system ... is in conformity with relevant national safety rules and relevant safety requirements laid down in TSIs” [Regulation 5(1)(a)].

The GB mainline railway is the GB railway system excluding trams, metros, and infrastructure and vehicles reserved for local use, for tourism or to run a heritage railway.

National Safety Rules (NSRs) supplement common safety methods, common safety targets and the Operations and Traffic Management (OPE) Technical Specification for Interoperability (TSI).

What are NSRs?

NSRs are defined in the Railway Safety Directive (Directive 2004/49/EC) as “rules containing railway safety requirements imposed at Member State level and applicable to more than one railway undertaking, irrespective of the body issuing them”.

What do NSRs cover?

The majority of NSRs for the GB mainline railway are the requirements contained in Railway Group Standards (RGSs).

NSRs in RGSs cover:

- **‘National safety methods’, specifically rules for assessing technical compatibility between rail vehicles and the infrastructure at route level;** GE/RT8270 *Assessment of Compatibility of Rolling Stock and Infrastructure* and related RGSs, for example GE/RT8006 *Assessment of Compatibility of Rail Vehicle Weights and Underline Bridges*.
- **Common operating rules of the GB mainline railway system;** the Rule Book (GE/RT8000) and other national operations publications.
- **Additional internal operating rules (company rules) that must be established by infrastructure managers and railway undertakings;** for example GO/RT3437 *Defective On-Train Equipment* and GE/RT8047 *Reporting of Safety-Related Information*.
- **Rules concerning requirements on selection criteria and medical fitness of staff undertaking safety critical tasks;** for example GO/RT3451 *Train Movement - Staff Suitability and Fitness Requirements*.
- **Rules concerning the investigation of accidents and incidents;** for example GO/RT3119 *Accident and Incident Investigation*.

Copies of all RGSs can be found on the RGS Online website www.rgsonline.co.uk.