Testing Railway Safety Critical Workers for Drugs and Alcohol

Synopsis
This document mandates common requirements for drug and alcohol testing of staff carrying out safety critical work to be applied by the infrastructure manager and railway undertakings.
Issue record

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<td>Three</td>
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<td>Replaces issue two, small scale change amendment – addition of 2.4 Advising person appointed as lead investigator of test result (transferred from GE/GN8570) and moving clauses within the document, to follow a logic order.</td>
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Amended or additional parts and/or sections of revised pages have been marked by a vertical black line in the adjacent margin.

Superseded documents

The following Railway Group documents are superseded, either in whole or in part as indicated:

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GE/RT8070 Issue 2 ceases to be in force and is withdrawn as of 02 March 2013.

Supply

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### Definitions

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Part 1  Purpose and Introduction

1.1 Purpose

1.1.1 This document mandates common requirements for drug and alcohol testing of staff carrying out safety critical work to be applied by infrastructure managers and railway undertakings.

1.2 Introduction

1.2.1 Background

1.2.1.1 To comply with the requirements of the Transport and Works Act 1992 [the 1992 Act], infrastructure managers and railway undertakings must “exercise due diligence” to ensure that their employees do not carry out safety critical work whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

1.2.1.2 The 1992 Act prescribes the limits for alcohol permissible in blood, breath or urine. Anyone found with more alcohol in their blood, breath or urine could be prosecuted under the 1992 Act. Following medical advice that amounts of alcohol up to the higher limits prescribed in the 1992 Act could still impair performance of safety critical tasks on the railway, significantly lower limits have been mandated by common consent, for infrastructure managers and railway undertakings (required to comply with Railway Group Standards). These are detailed in 2.1.

1.2.1.3 The Railways and other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006 [ROGS] defines tasks which are safety critical, replacing the definition of safety critical work in the Railways (Safety Critical Work) Regulations 1994 with an enlarged and more detailed list. The definition in ROGS has been applied in this Railway Group Standard.

1.2.2 Principles

1.2.2.1 The requirements of this document are based on the following principles, which underlie their arrangements for exercising due diligence under the 1992 Act and controlling risks to the safe operation of the shared railway system arising from the misuse of alcohol and the abuse of drugs:

a) Infrastructure managers and railway undertakings have an established drugs and alcohol policy.

b) Infrastructure managers and railway undertakings carry out tests, for drugs and alcohol, prior to staff being appointed to a post that is required to perform safety critical tasks.

c) Infrastructure managers and railway undertakings carry out regular and systematic monitoring, for drugs and alcohol, on staff performing safety critical tasks.

1.2.3 Related requirements in other documents

1.2.3.1 The following Railway Group Standards contain requirements that are relevant to the scope of this document: GE/GN8570 Guidance on the Management of Drugs and Alcohol.

1.2.4 Supporting documents

1.2.4.1 The following Rail Industry Guidance Notes support this Railway Group Standard: GE/GN8570 Guidance on the Management of Drugs and Alcohol.
1.3 Approval and authorisation of this document

1.3.1 The content of this document was approved by TOM Standards Committee on 18 September 2012.

1.3.2 This document was authorised by RSSB on 29 October 2012.
Part 2 Requirements for infrastructure managers and railway undertakings

2.1 ‘For cause’ drugs and alcohol testing

2.1.1 Infrastructure managers and railway undertakings shall undertake ‘for cause’ drugs and alcohol testing on any member of their staff engaged in safety critical tasks, on receipt of a reasonable request from another infrastructure manager or railway undertaking; where there are reasonable grounds to suspect:

a) That the person is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

b) That the safety of the operational railway is at risk.

2.2 Laboratories for drugs and alcohol testing

2.2.1 Infrastructure managers and railway undertakings shall only use laboratories for drugs and alcohol analysis that are:

a) UKAS (or European equivalent) accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005.

b) Subject to blind analysis testing under an external quality assurance scheme.

2.3 Positive result

2.3.1 Infrastructure managers and railway undertakings shall regard a test result for drugs or alcohol, on a member their staff engaged in safety critical tasks, as being positive if it shows:

a) The presence of drugs for which there is no legitimate medical need for either their use or the quantity of their use.

b) More than 29 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood.

Or

c) More than 13 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath.

Or

d) More than 39 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of urine.

2.4 Advising person appointed as lead investigator of test result

2.4.1 Infrastructure managers and railway undertakings shall inform the person appointed to lead a formal or local investigation of the result of any test for drugs and alcohol applicable to the incident under investigation.
Part 3 Application of this document

3.1 Application - infrastructure managers

3.1.1 Scope
3.1.1.1 The requirements of this document apply to measures that must be commonly applied throughout Network Rail managed infrastructure related to drug and alcohol testing.

3.1.2 Exclusions from scope
3.1.2.1 There are no exclusions from the scope specified in clause 3.1.1 for infrastructure managers.

3.1.3 General compliance date for infrastructure managers
3.1.3.1 This Railway Group Standard comes into force and is to be complied with from 02 March 2013, except as specified in section 3.1.4.

3.1.4 Exceptions to general compliance date
3.1.4.1 There are no exceptions to the general compliance date specified in 3.1.3 for infrastructure managers.

3.2 Application - railway undertakings

3.2.1 Scope
3.2.1.1 The requirements of this document apply to measures that must be commonly applied throughout Network Rail managed infrastructure related to drug and alcohol testing.

3.2.2 Exclusions from scope
3.2.2.1 There are no exclusions from the scope specified in 3.2.1 for railway undertakings.

3.2.3 General compliance date for railway undertakings
3.2.3.1 This Railway Group Standard comes into force and is to be complied with from 02 March 2013, except as specified in section 3.2.4.

3.2.4 Exceptions to general compliance date
3.2.4.1 There are no exceptions to the general compliance date specified in 3.2.3 for railway undertakings.

3.3 Health and safety responsibilities

3.3.1 Users of documents published by RSSB are reminded of the need to consider their own responsibilities to ensure health and safety at work and their own duties under health and safety legislation. RSSB does not warrant that compliance with all or any documents published by RSSB is sufficient in itself to ensure safe systems of work or operation or to satisfy such responsibilities or duties.
Definitions

Drug
For the purpose of this document, a drug means a ‘controlled drug’ as defined in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and its subsequent modification orders, or other substance that could affect a person’s ability to carry out safety critical tasks safely. The term also includes medication, either prescribed by a medical practitioner or purchased over the counter, which can have similar effects.

Member of Staff
In the context of this document a member of staff includes:

a) An employee of an infrastructure manager or a railway undertaking.
b) A contractor to an infrastructure manager or a railway undertaking.
c) A member of the staff of a contactor to an infrastructure manager or a railway undertaking.

This also includes any person acting on a voluntary basis but fulfilling one of the roles described above.

Safety Critical Task
Testing Railway Safety
Critical Workers for Drugs and Alcohol

References

The Catalogue of Railway Group Standards gives the current issue number and status of documents published by RSSB. This information is also available from www.rgsonline.co.uk.

RGSC 01 Railway Group Standards Code
RGSC 02 The Standards Manual

Documents referenced in the text

RSSB documents
GE/GN8570 Guidance on the Management of Drugs and Alcohol

Other references
Transport and Works Act 1992 (c.42)
The Railways and other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006 (S.I. 599)

Other relevant documents
ISO/IEC 17025:2005 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories