Rail Safety Regulatory Operating Model

The principles and approach that we use to regulate rail safety

The safety of rail operations is overseen by the NZ Transport Agency, the regulator. Our role is to ensure that the industry manages its responsibility for ensuring the safety of workers, passengers and the public. The industry includes:

- Rail access providers
- Rail operators
- Other rail participants involved in providing rail services

Our activities as the regulator of rail safety help ensure:
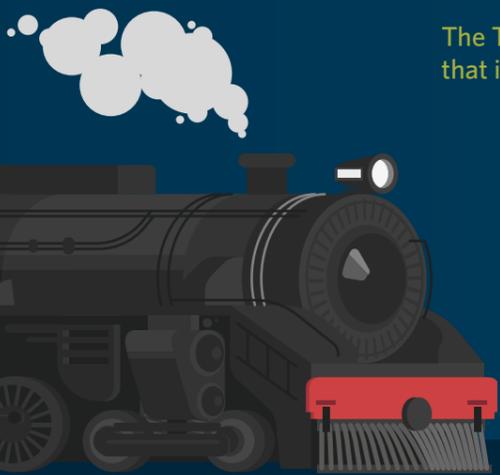
Strong public confidence in rail network safety

Safe transport of people and freight on the rail network

Safe rail workers and public operating near the rail corridor

Core Regulatory Principles

The Transport Agency's operational decision-making and regulatory compliance activities are carried out in a manner that is responsive, transparent, accountable, proportionate and consistent.

Intelligence-led	Risk-based	System focused	Proportionate & tailored	Transparent, impartial & consistent	Connected & accessible

NZ Transport Agency's regulatory activities ensure safety risks in the rail industry are well-managed and controlled

EDUCATION & ADVICE

Identify and promote best practice safety initiatives and performance to the public, licence holders and other stakeholders through effective information and field inspections.

COMPLIANCE

Targeted, proportionate enforcement, and can include remedial actions, safety improvement plans, licence conditions and enforcement.

LICENSING

Decide who can and cannot operate rail vehicles or manage rail networks. The licensing function is supported by an assessment of participants' safety cases.

SAFETY CASES

Issue a licence holder with an approved safety case, that describes their safety approach and which is the overarching risk management documentation of the Act.

SAFETY ASSESSMENT

Observe and seek evidence on how a participant is managing their safety obligations. Special safety assessments determine if the participant's rail activities could cause death, serious injury to, individuals or significant damage to property.

RISK MONITORING & INTELLIGENCE

The national priorities programme identifies priority safety issues faced across the sector through compliance monitoring activities.

INVESTIGATIONS

Identify and resolve safety issues that have caused a specific incident or series of incidents to occur.

DESIGN OF REGULATION

Effective regulatory design and incentive setting - policy, rules and standards.

NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY WAKA KOTAHI

New Zealand Government