

rail safety update

NEWS AND UPDATES FOR THE RAIL
INDUSTRY AND SAFETY ASSESSORS

Summer 2010/11



NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHI

The rail safety team is moving



The rail safety team will be moving across town on December 20th.

Along with many of our colleagues we'll be moving to the NZ Transport Agency National office in Chews Lane. The move will bring Wellington-based national staff under one roof. Chews Lane runs between Willis and Victoria streets in Central Wellington. All phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same, but the fax number will change. All updated contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Level crossing Police complaint form - non-NRS

We have developed a new level crossing police complaint form for use by organisations other than those operating on the National Rail System (NRS).

This form has been developed by removing the KiwiRail system references and adding organisation contact details for feedback on action by the NZ Police. We suspect that KiwiRail may have been getting feedback on police action regarding non-NRS organisations in the past - so the new form should resolve these issues.

NRS incidents should continue to be reported on the KiwiRail form in the normal way. Non-NRS organisations - don't forget to fax a copy of the form to your client manager for input in to our Rail Information System (RIS). A copy of the new form is attached at the end this newsletter.



New assessment report template

A new *ordinary assessment report* template has been developed for use by NZTA assessors. The main changes are addition of new condition boxes and an additional graph analysing the total number of conditions raised year by year. The new format has been trialled on a couple of recent assessments. Further changes will be made and it will be sent to all assessors in the New Year and used from then on. Full instructions will be provided.



Assessment responses

A quick reminder about assessment responses. The process is that the assessor should send you a copy of the draft report. This should be checked for factual accuracy/spelling etc and returned to the assessor. This is not the report that organisations should use to respond to any draft findings.

The assessor will then send the draft report to the NZTA for review and the NZTA will issue the final report. It is this final report that the organisation should respond to by sending evidence to the assessor for review and submission to the NZTA for final closure.

Rail information system



The rail safety team is busy building the capability of its Rail Information System (RIS) which enables it to identify industry trends and emerging issues and carry out its regulatory role more effectively.

RIS records key contact information for all licence holders and others involved in the rail industry such as safety assessors, the incidents and accidents we are notified about, safety case approvals and variations, assessment dates and findings (conditions, recommendations and observations). Having all this information together in one place means we can often also respond to your queries more quickly.

It also means we can run various reports to focus our activity in the areas where risk is increasing as well as being more proactive in order to prevent serious accidents or non-compliances eventuating.

Much of RIS is now in place and most operators have assessment and safety case data to their name. We have also been able to back-fill National Rail System data from July 2004, to assist trend analysis sooner.

Rob and Merv are working on some enhancements to the system to refine its usability. These will enable us to manage developments in different sectors of the rail industry independently and focus our attentions on the specific needs of those sectors. If you want to know more about RIS, talk to your client manager.



Correspondence to the NZTA

These days, we prefer to receive correspondence electronically. All correspondence is now stored on an electronic storage system here at the NZTA, so sending your letters, files or reports electronically saves us a bit of time.

Please send all of your electronic correspondence to your client manager and please cc our Rail Safety Manager – john.freeman@nzta.govt.nz. However, if electronic mail is not available for your organisation 'snail mail' will still be answered.

Name this magazine

As you will see from this issue, the *rail safety update* has been given a facelift. We are now looking for a new catchy name for the magazine and are open to suggestions from you the readers.

Please send any suggestions to the editor:
adrian.douglas@nzta.govt.nz.

There will be a prize if your suggestion is used!

Survey – thanks!

We would like to thank all of the organisations that took part in the telephone survey we undertook of our clients recently. The response rate was excellent and we appreciated the thoroughness of the information and comments you provided.

The survey identified some things we are doing well and things we need to work on. You can rest assured the results have been collated and analysed and we are hopeful you will notice some changes as a result.

Merry Christmas

From the team here at the NZTA we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2011. A member of the NZTA rail safety team will be on call for any notifications over the Christmas and New Year period. The office will close between the 25 December 2010 and the 5 January 2011.



Our contact details

For general enquiries, or contact information about the NZ Transport Agency please check our website www.nzta.govt.nz or email us at info@nzta.govt.nz

Rail enquiries email us at railregulation@nzta.govt.nz

NZTA reception phone: 04 894 5400
(Option 4 – National Office)

NZ Transport Agency
Private Bag 6995
Wellington 6141

Rail Safety Notification Hotline

(24 hours 7 days a week):
Phone (04) 499 1858

The Rail Safety Team

John Freeman	Rail Safety Manager john.freeman@nzta.govt.nz
Merv Harvey	Principal Rail Safety Advisor merv.harvey@nzta.govt.nz
Adrian Douglas	Senior Rail Safety Advisor adrian.douglas@nzta.govt.nz
Rob Gould	Senior Rail Safety Advisor rob.gould@nzta.govt.nz
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RAIL LEVEL CROSSING COMPLAINT FORM



Police Communications Centre Event No: *(if known)* _____

Date of Incident:							Locality:	Metrage:
Time of Incident:							Level Crossing at: (Rd/St)	
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun		

Organisation Submitting Report: _____

Contact Person for Feedback: Name: _____ Phone: _____

Light Weather	Bright Sun		Sun		Overcast		Twilight		Dark	
	Fine	Light Rain	Heavy rain	Strong wind	Mist / Fog	Frost	Snow			

Crossing Control	Barrier Arm		Lights and Bells		Stop Sign		Give Way		Uncontrolled		Private	
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Locomotive Engineer

Last name			First Name				Second (or other) name				
Home address											
Home phone				Cell Phone				Other contact number			

Locomotive details

Locomotive Number:					Heading		N	E	S	W	
Weight:		Length:			Lights On		Yes	No	High	Low	
Horn Sounded		Yes	No	Long Blast		Short blast		Continuous			
Locomotive Speed				Km/h							
Proximity to vehicle	Less than	5m	10m	20m	30m	40m	50m	75m	100m	125m	150m

Offending Vehicle details:

Make		Model			Reg No			Colour			
Type		Towing									
Distinguishing features											
Driver		Male			Female			Race			
Further description											

What Happened: *Include as much detail as possible including direction of travel for vehicle, estimated speed, did it stop or slow etc. Include the name of the nearest town. Continue on separate sheet as required*

Signed _____ Date _____

Manager: Fax this form to Inspector Mark Stables. Police National Headquarters. 04 498 7404.

Faxed: Date _____ Time _____