

RAIL SAFETY UPDATE



Kia ora koutou

It has been a busy first half of 2017 for the NZ Transport Agency Rail Safety team, with a number of updates and changes to the team and organisation.

It's an exciting time for the Transport Agency. You might have heard – we're transforming the organisation because the world is changing, and we want to make the most of future opportunities for New Zealand. While we're changing we're staying focused on delivery – in fact, our transformation is about setting ourselves up to be able to work more effectively with our stakeholders and partners.

One change I'm personally excited about is a new role I've accepted in the roading compliance area. I'm sad to be leaving the Rail Safety team, which I joined in 2014, because leading the development of the Transport Agency's approach to rail safety regulation has been a source of great pride.

Some of the highlights for me have been: being part of the industry's capability growth in terms of understanding and managing risk (particularly in the context of New Zealand's increased expectations of health and safety); implementing a risk based approach to our work, so that those who should see us more often do; implementing a new rail operating model and national priority focus; introducing a safety award for the tourist and heritage sector to recognise and promote great examples of safety; and being part of the evolution of the rail team who have worked hard to develop their individual and collective capabilities. The team is in a great position to continue the journey towards more effective, risk-based and responsive regulation, and I'm dedicated to providing ongoing support.

We will let you know about the new senior manager for rail safety as soon as we can. In the meantime I will remain the key contact for anything you cannot address through your usual Rail Safety team contact points.

As part of promoting great examples of rail safety, as mentioned above, I'd like to congratulate the winner of the Transport Agency's Rail Safety Award for FRONZ. Auckland Dockline Trams received the award for their work to prevent a tram fire event, as had happened in Memphis in 2013 on the same type of tram.

Their winning entry saw Auckland Trams putting in place a new maintenance scheme to ensure any faulty equipment could be detected before problems arose, familiarising the fire service with the issue to grow their understanding of the potential risks, conducting a practice exercise and sharing the information with the broader rail heritage sector.



James Duncan (Auckland Dockline Trams) with Transport Agency Rail Safety Team members Rob Gould (Manager Licensing & Assessments), Debbie Despard (National Manager Rail Safety) and James House (Senior Rail Safety Officer)

Ka kite anō Ngā manaakitanga,

Debbie Despard
National Manager Rail Safety

OCCURRENCE NOTIFICATION PROJECT UPDATE

In August 2016 we asked the sector to provide their thoughts about the rail accident and incident notification process. We received great feedback from a number of organisations, and we used this to enable us to make better-informed decisions about our preferred options.

In December 2016 we released a decision document which outlined our intention to introduce:

- a multi-tiered category system for occurrence notification and an extended notification period to submit written notifications; and
- a Transport Agency occurrence notification standard/guidelines.

We have started to implement and test some changes with KiwiRail. Once we're comfortable the changes are working as anticipated, we'll roll these out to other users of the National Rail System (NRS). When that is complete we'll introduce changes to non-NRS rail operators.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

The National Priorities Framework enables the Transport Agency to focus our regulatory effort on risks associated with the most significant potential harm events on the rail network.

Our analysis of available information, and work in conjunction with the rail sector and other regulatory agencies, has identified tunnels and worker safety as our two National

Priorities.

We're developing a programme of work to address these priorities and will look to bring together key stakeholders and operators to help develop this. The programme will drive the effort and focus of activities conducted in safety assessments, investigations and engagement with the sector.

Further information will be available as this programme is developed. At this stage, we want the industry to be aware of our National Priorities. Rail licence holders may notice some changes in the way we conduct assessments and investigations, and the information we require as part of them, because of this programme. While the National Priorities provide particular areas of focus for the Transport Agency, your ongoing work to address other risks remains crucial.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please email david.willing@nzta.govt.nz

RAIL INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS

With the cold weather upon us please ensure you continue to exercise vigilance in your operating environment. Remember that rail accidents or incidents must be reported to the Transport Agency as soon as practicable.

If the accident or incident involves a fatality, serious injury or significant property or infrastructure damage, call our 24/7 phone number. This number is monitored by our on-call staff member: 04 499 1858 or free phone 0508 RAIL 555 (0508 7245 555).

For other incidents or accidents, please advise us as soon as practicable using the online notification form at: www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/rail-incident-accident-form/ or by emailing railregulation@nzta.govt.nz.

Please note: Advising KiwiRail and/or WorkSafe does not constitute a notification to the Transport Agency.

TEAM MOVEMENTS

There have been a number of arrivals and departures to our team. Please join us in wishing the following team members the best:

Arrivals

Hans Boon, Principal Rail Safety Officer

Hans will provide advice and systems thinking for our more complex regulatory matters. Hans has a strong rail background with stints as a train driver in Australia for Aurizon and QR National Coal and also as a specialist rail investigator for the ATSB (Australian Transport Safety Bureau). Hans is returning to New Zealand and starting with us in early August.

James House, Senior Rail Safety Officer

James joined the team from the UK with a strong risk and assurance management background in the rail industry. James's experience in the industry extends back to his early days as a train driver, and his enthusiasm and knowledge will prove invaluable to the Agency.

Kitty August, Operations Analyst

Kitty has joined the team as our Operations Analyst, transferring internally from our Risk and Assurance team. Kitty's role is to provide an overview of our regulatory work, focusing on where and how we deploy our resources to be most effective.

Departures

Merv Harvey, Principal Rail Advisor

Merv retired from the Agency in February after 13 years in the team. His wealth of knowledge accumulated across more than 40 years in the rail industry will be missed. We

wish him well with his retirement and continued travel adventures.

Erin Moyle, Senior Rail Safety Officer

Erin left the team in January to pursue new and exciting opportunities. Erin's work over the last few years has been pivotal to the team's success, particularly her efforts around strengthening the team's investigative capability.

Natalie Bull, Rail Safety Officer

Natalie is taking maternity leave to welcome her second child, and will return later in the year.

Julie Marshall, PA and Administrator

You will know Julie from her sterling efforts ensuring Debbie's diary and other activities are well managed and organised. As of the end of June Julie has moved on to a new opportunity at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.



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

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