



RAIL REGULATION SAFETY ALERT

06/12

NOTICE TO ACCREDITED RAIL TRANSPORT OPERATORS

THIS ADVICE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Subject:

Effective operation and management of hi-rail equipment

Background:

There has been an increase in serious incidents relating to hi-rail operations in Australia over the past 12 months. Since January 2011, there have been 19 reportable high-rail vehicle related incidents in Queensland.

Across Australia, recent incidents involving hi-rail vehicle operation include: runaways and/or derailments due to the loss of braking capacity (during rail movements); the application of an insufficient braking force (during stowage or while transitioning); or the failure of the rail guidance equipment (due to fatigue).

The Independent Transport Safety Regulator in New South Wales has issued Transport Safety Alert No. 39 [22 March 2012], regarding the effective operation and management of hi-rail equipment. This transport safety alert can be found at: www.transportregulatornsw.gov.au/rail/publications/tsas/tsa39.pdf/view

The Office of Rail Safety in Western Australia has issued two Rail Safety Alerts (RSN 2011-01 [10 January 2011] & RSN 2012-04 [18 September 2012]) regarding inherent risks with hi-rail vehicle operations. These rail safety alerts can be found at: [www.transport.wa.gov.au/rail/731 .asp](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/rail/731.asp)

Transport Safety Victoria has issued Rail Safety Alert (SA. No. 2012- 03 [18 October 2012]) regarding risks associated with hi-rail vehicle operations. This transport safety alert can be found at: www.transportsafety.vic.gov.au/rail-safety/newsroom/safety-alerts

Action:

In order to ensure compliance with the safety duties set out in the *Transport (Rail Safety) Act 2010* (Qld), the following should be undertaken:

- accredited rail transport operators who operate hi-rail vehicles should conduct a systemic risk assessment/review of the risks associated with hi-rail vehicle operations, including:
 - the specification, operation and maintenance of these vehicles throughout their lifecycle
 - adequacy of the training and competency assessment process for hi-rail vehicle operators
- take appropriate action.

For more information in Queensland, please contact Mr Peter Cumming, Director (Rail Regulation) on 07 3066 2946.

Date:

29 October 2012

Authorised by:

Mr Peter Cumming, Director (Rail Regulation)

Distribution to:

Accredited Rail Transport Operators, Director-General, Deputy Director-General, General Manager, Executive Director

Further information:

Contact Mr Peter Cumming, Director (Rail Regulation) on 07 3066 2946