

# rail safety update

NEWS AND UPDATES FOR THE RAIL  
INDUSTRY AND SAFETY ASSESSORS



NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY  
WAKA KOTAHI

October 2012

## Confined spaces

There are plenty of situations in the rail industry where working in confined spaces may be required. Locomotive or tram boilers are examples. Guidelines about working in confined spaces are available from the newly formed Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (formerly the Department of Labour/OSH) or here:

[www.osh.govt.nz/order/catalogue/pdf/confined.pdf](http://www.osh.govt.nz/order/catalogue/pdf/confined.pdf)

Please take the time to familiarise yourselves with this document. It gives examples at the end of how easily accidents can occur.



## Collision incident

Recently there was a collision incident where a trainee relatively inexperienced in the class of rail vehicle was operating under supervision. Another rail vehicle was parked ahead on the line and the trainee intended to stop short of that vehicle. During this manoeuvre the trainee bumped the throttle into the power position while braking. This resulted in a low speed collision. This incident highlights the requirement for close supervision of members under training and risk management when attempting tight tolerance manoeuvres early in training.

## TAIC report 11-104

The Transport Accident Investigation Commission (TAIC) report in to the Beach Road level crossing collision has been published on the TAIC website. It is available for download at [taic.org.nz](http://taic.org.nz).

## Safety performance reports

As at 5 October, 61% of expected Safety Performance Reports (SPR's) have been received at the NZTA. These reports were due in by 30 September. Thank you to all of those rail organisations that have responded by the due date.

If you have not responded yet, please complete and send your SPR in **urgently**. If you have not got the new 2012 SPR template, please contact your NZTA Client Manager ASAP. Several changes have been made to the template in an effort to make these reports easier to fill in.

Last year the information from these reports provided us with important information. We are committing to again sharing this information with the industry. To achieve this we need your help!

# Rail participants/personnel/operators explained

These are defined in the Railways Act 2005 and described as follows:

A **rail participant** is any of the following:

- An infrastructure owner
- A rail vehicle owner
- A railway premises owner
- An access provider
- A rail operator
- A network controller
- A maintenance provider
- A railway premises manager
- Any other class of person described as a rail participant by regulations.

**Rail personnel**, in relation to a rail participant, means an individual engaged by the rail participant or by an agent or contractor of the rail participant, whether as an employee, agent, contractor or volunteer, for the purposes of carrying out, or assisting in carrying out, rail activities of the rail participant.

**Rail operator** means a person who provides or operates a rail vehicle, whether or not that person engages rail personnel to do so or to assist in doing so on it's behalf, but does not include those rail personnel.

## Correspondence to the NZTA

These days, all correspondence is filed in 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 (except incident reports) to your client manager and please 'cc' our Manager Rail Systems – [john.freeman@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:john.freeman@nzta.govt.nz). However, if electronic mail is not available for your organisation 'snail mail' will still be answered! For rail incident reports email us at [railregulation@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:railregulation@nzta.govt.nz)



## Our contact details

For general enquiries or contact information about the NZTA please check our website [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz) or email us at [info@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:info@nzta.govt.nz)

NZ Transport Agency  
50 Victoria Street  
Private Bag 6995  
Wellington 6141

NZTA reception is located on level 2  
The Rail Systems team is located on level 3  
phone: (04) 894 5400 (option 4 – National Office)

### Rail Safety Notification Hotline

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

Rail incident reports: email us at [railregulation@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:railregulation@nzta.govt.nz)

### The Rail Systems team

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