
SEASON'S GREETINGS



Dear rail industry participants

On behalf of the NZ Transport Agency Rail Safety team I want to convey season's greetings to you all. Enjoy the break, if you're having one, but if you're continuing to work around our rail network during the holiday period please take care and ensure your safety and that of others comes first.

This year has seen another period of development for the Transport Agency as the rail safety regulator, and we are now better positioned to deliver our functions effectively and provide a consistent level of monitoring and oversight. We appreciate that some of the changes we're making will mean a significant change for the industry, and we value the co-operation and input many of you have provided as we improve processes.

The addition of new staff (in part driven by bringing the assessor function in-house) will enable us to be more visible in the field. This is already resulting in improved delivery and industry support.

Changes to Health and Safety legislation are reflected in amendments to the Railways Act 2005, and we are seeing some positive and encouraging responses from the industry in implementing these requirements. In the new year we expect to see further advances in operators proactively managing their risks, seeking continuous improvement and enhancing risk controls so far as is reasonably practicable.

We are currently reviewing and analysing safety performance reports, and have received a number of high quality and comprehensive reports. This enables us as the regulator to be better informed of current and future trends so we can adjust our priorities accordingly. We will be providing more information on the outputs from this work in the new year, including some of the great safety initiatives that we could all learn something from.

We are always looking to promote best practice across the industry. A couple of examples worth highlighting this year have included:

- Transdev Auckland won the 'best significant health and safety initiative by a large organisation' category in the 2016 Health and Safety Awards for its success in delivering the SPAD reduction strategy.
- The Transport Agency presented its inaugural rail safety award at the Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand (FRONZ) conference in June this year. The Tourist and Heritage Rail Safety Award was presented to Goldfields Railway for its campaign addressing public safety at Waihi level crossings. We will be inviting applications for the 2017 awards in the new

year.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the surveys we sent throughout the year. The tunnel survey this year had a 100 percent response rate, which is fantastic! Receiving your input is important and enables us to better understand risks so we can plan for the future and deliver better results to you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – stay safe wherever your travels may take you.

Regards,

Debbie Despard
National Manager Rail Safety

RAIL INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS

At this time of year, as at all times, please ensure you continue to exercise vigilance in your operating environment. Remember that rail accidents or incidents that occur over the holiday period 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). A member of the rail safety team will be on call throughout the holiday period.

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 ARRIVALS

It has been a busy year with a number of people joining the Rail Safety team. Please join us in welcoming the following team members:

Iulia Crisnic, Rail Safety Officer

Iulia joins the team with experience in the risk and compliance space. She has previously worked for FNZ (a financial markets company) and the Department of Internal Affairs.

Lou Parker, Senior Rail Safety Officer

Lou joins the team with a strong regulatory background, with previous employers including WorkSafe and MBIE. Her expertise and knowledge around safety legislation is proving to be a great asset to the team.

Natalie Bull, Rail Safety Officer

Natalie has an investigative, compliance and audit background and previously worked at Progressive Enterprises and NZ Post. She is looking forward to getting out and about meeting operators in the new year.

Iulia, Lou and Natalie are busy building industry relationships through their duties as licence managers and safety assessors.

Julie Marshall, Rail Safety Administrator

Julie joins the team from within the Transport Agency, which she joined in 2016

from the Ministry of Health.

David Willing, Acting Critical Risk Programme Manager (*previously Senior Rail Safety Advisor*)

Following the secondment of Bill Hazleton into the Transport Agency's Zero Harm team, David will act in the role of Critical Risk Programme Manager through to May 2017. David will develop and implement the critical risk frameworks initiated by Bill and will continue to be involved in the licensing and assessments area. We will contact you if this means any changes for your operation.



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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