

The operation of Australia's railways relies on people being able to transmit important messages to each other. Even where trains might be driverless, there will still be controllers, trackworkers, and other staff that must be able to communicate with each other.



While exact figures are unclear, it is very common (some studies estimate up to 90%) that poor communication plays a part in most railway incidents.

Railway communications are not just about the operation of the trains, they can relate to:

- Emergency situations;
- 'Safeworking' including (but not limited to):
  - Proceed authority;
  - Work on track authority;
  - Train running information;
  - A condition affecting the network; and
  - Documentation and logs.
- Pre-start briefings;
- Permit to work (e.g. electrified territory);
- Shift change handover information;
- ... and a whole host of other situations.

RISSB maintains a Guideline entitled "Safety Critical Communications" which establishes a range of guiding principles to assist in mitigating the risk of failures by providing Rail Transport Operators, and associated rail industry stakeholders, with a range of processes and practices they can adopt and use for their operations. This guideline substantially informed the Australian Industry Standards' Transport and Logistics Training Package "Skill Set", which RISSB contributed to as well.

RISSB and industry has developed AS 7660 - Radio Communication in the Rail Corridor - which sets out a set of basic requirements for wireless communication between those whose work is in or associated with the rail corridor. It applies to wireless communication between network controllers, train crews and persons working in the Rail Corridor.

RISSB's Australian Network Rules and Procedures (ANRP) - currently undergoing a significant revision within RISSB's National Rules program of work - has two communication related modules: Network Communication and Spoken and Written Communication.

RISSB is focused on this extremely important aspect of the railway and is committed to helping rail companies to continue to improve in safety and productivity through high quality, effective communications.



## About RISSB

We develop and maintain the Australasian Rail Industry Standards, Rules, Codes of Practice and Guidelines. Our vision is to be the trusted leader in the rail safety co-regulatory environment, providing products and services that enhance safety and efficiency.

## Learn More

If you want to know more, visit the RISSB website, or email [info@rissb.com.au](mailto:info@rissb.com.au)