

The Australian railway is a fundamentally safe place. When compared with other modes of transport, the railway delivers a very safe service to its customers. Even so, there is always the potential for something to go wrong.

The railway has its own safety law, called the 'Rail Safety National Law', which requires rail companies to ensure the safety of people (staff, passengers and people around the railway) 'so far as is reasonably practicable'. That means safety must be ever present in our minds as we go about our roles. Sometimes (at least bits of) our roles are very rules based, e.g. like following a Standard, with very little or no discretion in how we go about a task. For other things, we may have the freedom to make choices i.e. use our judgement to try to achieve a particular outcome.

Sometimes it's really obvious how a decision will impact (positively or negatively) safety, but sometimes the link is more difficult to understand, especially because decisions often involve some kind of 'trade-off'. It is often considered that almost every policy, investment or operational decision made by the Australian rail industry has an impact on safety in some way. It is therefore vital that safety considerations are embedded effectively into the decision-making process.

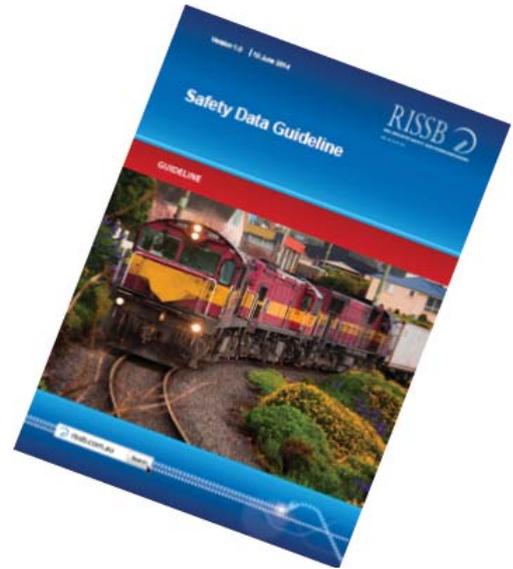
RISSB, as the industry's safety body, is committed to helping the railway improve its (already very good) safety record. So every product that RISSB produces, which are sometimes designed to reduce costs and/or improve performance, will in some way consider safety too. But there are some that specifically support decision makers in ensuring that safety considerations are embedded within their decisions.

The Safe Decisions Guideline, describes the Australian industry view of how decisions should be made that properly protect the safety of rail industry workers, passengers and others, satisfy the law and respect the interests of stakeholders, whilst remaining commercially sound.

The Measuring Safety Performance Guideline helps rail transport operators identify the safety performance indicators that are most appropriate to their operations and to ensure their continued effectiveness.



RISSB's Safety Data Guideline supports evidence-based decision making by providing guidance on how to establish a consistent, efficient and effective approach to the collection, analysis and use of safety data in managing risk for operators and the rail industry as a whole, according to good practice.



Australian Risk Model

Late 2017 RISSB launched the Australian Rail Risk Model – ARRM. ARRM is an objective, quantitative risk tool to help rail companies take safety risk considerations into their decision making more scientifically. The take-up of ARRM has been overwhelming; RISSB is very proud that ARRM is proving so valuable to the railway.



The ARRM website can be found at <https://arm.org.au>

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