

Rail Safety Investigation

CODE OF PRACTICE



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Document Control

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Code Change Procedures

The RISSB maintains the master for this document and publishes the current version on the RISSB website.

Any changes to the content of this publication require the version number to be updated.

Changes to this publication must be approved according to the procedure for developing management system documents.

The RISSB will identify and communicate changes to this publication.

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Introduction

This Rail Safety Investigation Code of Practice has been produced to define industry "good practice" for anyone in the Australian rail industry who is involved in, or likely to be involved in, the investigation of rail safety occurrences. It also provides guidance in the application of the code and a suite of tools to assist investigators.

The aim of the code is to establish a consistent approach to the collection and analysis of investigation data. It builds on the best practices already used by various organisations in the industry and promotes a 'just culture' approach for all investigations. No matter which rail organisation is involved or where the occurrence took place, the code provides a simple, standard method of investigation.

What's in the code?

This code is presented in four sections:

Section 1

Background to the Code of Practice – describes the sources of this Code of Practice, including the requirements of Australian Standard 4292 Part 7: Railway Safety Investigation (AS 4292.7)¹. It also describes the theoretical framework behind the code. Anyone who could be responsible for managing a rail safety investigation, or for implementing safety management policies and procedures in general, should read this section.

Section 2

Overall process for investigating rail safety occurrences – describes the investigation process and how the code works in practice throughout an investigation. It contains an overview of the investigation process. Anyone involved in, or likely to be involved in, a rail safety investigation, should be familiar with the contents of Section 2.

Section 3

Organising and analysing data – provides guidelines and examples for organising and analysing the data collected during an investigation. It describes how to learn from occurrences and build systems to sort the material derived from an investigation in a logical and sequential way. It provides case studies and further reading for investigators, senior managers, safety managers and others with an interest in minimising risk and implementing safety principles within an organisation.

Section 4

The investigation report – provides guidelines for developing an investigation report. It also includes guidelines for managers reviewing a report and following up any safety actions resulting from it.

¹ Standards Australia (2006). Australian Standard™ Railway safety management Part 7: Railway safety investigation (AS 4292.7—2006).