

Australian Standard Rail Networks **Code of Practice** *Volume 4*

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Track, Civil and Electrical Infrastructure Part 3: Infrastructure Guidelines

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Foreword

This Part of Volume 4 describes guidelines and requirements to be applied to the Australian standard gauge rail networks for track, civil and electrical infrastructure elements.

In the application of this Part it is important for the user to consider the track, civil and electrical infrastructure as a whole. In undertaking this necessary holistic approach it is important to take into account all the interactions and interfaces between the infrastructure elements and the phases of the asset life cycle (ie. design and rating, construction, commissioning, monitoring and maintenance, modification and decommissioning and disposal). In doing so all matters must be applied in a consistent manner between the infrastructure elements, (eg. consistent design loadings are transferred from the rail into the sleeper and fastening system).

The Part is divided into Sections dealing with specific infrastructure elements. Matters that relate to several infrastructure elements concurrently (eg. matters that relate to the rail support system) are accounted for by the code addressing these matters in the component elements. The details described in one Section may therefore be inherently linked to those in another Section. The entire Part should therefore be understood prior to application and all interfaces and elements identified and accounted for holistically.

The Code of Practice for the Australian standard gauge rail networks, Volume 1: General Requirements and Interface Management together with Volume 4, Parts 1 and 2 should be read in conjunction with this Part.

The development of this Part has taken into consideration the practices described in Volume 4, Parts 1 and 2, and the underlying uniformity and safety principles described in both Volume 1 and AS 4292.1.

These guidelines are for the guidance of owners in the preparation of their specific infrastructure management standards and procedures and do not represent the full set of documents that may be required for any specific situation or location. It is essential that owners develop any additional documentation based on compliance with AS 4292, the applicable statutory requirements, Volume 4, Parts 1 and 2 and the specific requirements of their infrastructure.

The Code currently has a number of issues notated as "To Be Determined". It is envisaged these issues would become the subject of future versions. In the meantime organisations are required to manage these issues in accordance with AS 4292 and any other relevant statutory requirements.

Guidelines for the Defined Interstate Rail Network have been developed from consideration of interstate rail system practices and experience over a long period of time. An acceptable level of "risk" is implied as allowed by AS 4292 for existing practices and operations. In the cases where condition assessment standards are defined the method of control (or mitigation) has also been determined by setting limits or criteria against which the system condition may be assessed.

In general the guidelines for assessment response criteria and actions defined in this Part have been determined for safety purposes and special management practices should be implemented for non-compliance. Considerations related to general maintenance for the purposes of optimal performance or minimising disruption to services have not been taken into account. Additional response criteria may be required for these purposes.

The assessment response criteria and actions provided for defect management are intended to be utilised for the development of practical work instructions. They may not be suitable for direct use by field staff involved in some types of inspection and assessment activities.

Code Change Procedures

Ongoing change procedures for the Code of Practice for the Australian standard gauge rail network are available from the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board.

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