

Consolidation of Public Level Crossings

GUIDELINE



Important Notice and Disclaimer

The Rail Industry Safety & Standards Board (RISSB) provides a range of products including:

- Standards;
- Codes of Practice;
- Rules;
- Guidelines; and
- Handbooks

Collectively these documents are known as RISSB Products.

RISSB does not undertake a full risk assessment of the RISSB Products it develops due to the diverse operating environments across Australia. Rather it identifies the hazards that must be addressed on the Australian Rail Network and develops products to accommodate these.

Responsibility rests with the network user, should it choose to adopt a RISSB Product, to ensure that the RISSB Product is safe for use on the network on which it is intended to be used. This would include a risk assessment. RISSB and all persons acting for RISSB in preparing a RISSB Product disclaim any liability or responsibility to any person for any consequences arising directly or indirectly from the use by the rail industry or network user of the RISSB Product in whole or in part, and whether or not in conjunction with, or as a supplement to, the guidelines which the rail industry or network user currently uses.

Users of the RISSB Products should be aware that, while using the RISSB Products, they must also comply with any relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation relevant to their operations. Adherence to the RISSB Products does not replace or exclude the application of such legislative requirements. Users are responsible for making their own enquiries in relation to the application of legislation, and the framers of the RISSB Products accept no responsibility in this regard.

Adherence to the RISSB Products does not necessarily ensure compliance with any relevant national guidelines, standards and codes of practice. Users are responsible for making their own enquiries in relation to compliance with national, standards, guidelines and codes of practice.

While all reasonable care has been taken in the preparation of this RISSB Product, it is provided to network users without any legal liability on the part of RISSB and RISSB publishers, authors, consultants and editors each take no responsibility for loss suffered by any person resulting in any way from the use, or reliance on this RISSB Product.

Document Control

Identification

Document Title	Version	Date
Consolidation of Public Level Crossings	V1.1	09/07/2013

Document History

Publication Version	Effective Date	Page(s) Affected	Reason for and Extent of Change(s)
Preliminary Draft	22/02/2012	Multiple	DG Feedback
First Consultation	18/05/2012	Multiple	Consultation Feedback
Second Consultation	28/02/2013	Multiple	DG Consultation Feedback
Final Draft vers 1	30/4/2013	All	DG and SC Approval of Guideline
Final Draft vers 1	5/6/ 2013	All	RISSB Board – non approval to issue
Final Draft vers 1.1	09/07/2013	Page 13	Final DG Review
Final Draft vers 1.1	19/7/2013	Page 13	DG and SC approval
Final Draft vers 1.1	10/9/2013	All	Board approval to publish

Guideline 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.

Non-Mandatory and Non-Normative

It was formally determined and agreed that Guidelines are not enforceable or mandatory. These RISSB Guidelines have been developed by industry, for industry only. RISSB members are free to utilise the content of this document either in whole, in part or not at all.

Copyright

All rights reserved RISSB 2013. The content of this document (except for content explicitly marked as originating from other sources) is owned by RISSB and may not be reproduced or transmitted by any means in whole or in part without written permission from the copyright owner.

Current financial members of RISSB may utilise and reproduce the text or diagrams contained herein for use within the context of their own rail operations. No photographs contained herein may be reproduced without permission of the relevant copyright holder.

Contents

Source Documents	6
Glossary	7
1 Introduction.....	9
1.1 Purpose	9
1.2 How to Use this Guideline	9
1.3 Intended Audience.....	9
1.4 Application	9
1.5 Background.....	10
2 Framework for level crossing consolidation	11
2.1 Outcomes	12
2.2 Key issues	12
2.3 Key stages.....	14
3 A national model approach.....	18
3.1 A National model for the elimination of level crossing risks.....	18
3.2 Level crossing consolidation.....	18
3.3 Selection of crossings for consolidation.....	18
3.4 Safe System Corridor Concept.....	19
3.5 Other selection criteria.....	19
3.6 Local approval	20
3.7 Consolidation arguments.....	21
3.8 Model approach to consolidation.....	21
3.9 Safety and public convenience	22
3.10 Road traffic management plan and network analysis	22
3.11 Road network analysis/traffic impact plan.....	22
3.12 Coordinating the road and rail industry - Interface Agreements.....	23
3.13 The local community profile	24
3.14 Building local support	25
3.15 Emergency response management	25
3.16 Incentives	26
3.17 Level crossing consolidation checklist.....	26
4 Managing risks at level crossings.....	29
4.1 Background.....	29

4.2	ATSB Level crossing occurrence data 2001–2010.....	29
4.3	National Railway Level Crossing Group	30
4.4	Legislative risk management requirements	31
4.5	National Rail Safety Regulator and Rail Safety National Law	32

Annex Contents

A	International examples	35
A.1	UK RSSB Report T528	35
A.2	US FRA Level Crossing Consolidation Guidelines	36
A.3	US FRA Railroad/Highway Grade Crossing Handbook	37
B	VRCSSC business rules	40
C	Case Study	42

Source Documents

During the preparation of this document, the following source documents were used:

Item	Title	Issued By	Issue Date
1	Highway - Railroad Grade Crossings – A Guide to Crossing Consolidation and Closure	US DOT - FRA	1994
2	Crossing Consolidation Guidelines	US DOT - FRA	2009
3	North Carolina DOT Traffic Separation Studies, Volumes I and II	US DOT - FRA	2004
4	Attitudes to and processes and funding for, crossing closures in other countries, T528 Report	UK RSSB	2006
5	AS1742.7 -2007 'Manual of uniform traffic control devices Part 7: Railway Crossings'	Standards Australia	2007
6	Railroad – Highway Grade Crossing Handbook	US DOT – FHWA Railroad	2007
7	Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012	South Australia	7/6/2012