

# Operational Concept for the Australian Rail Network



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## Document Control

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of Operational Concept for the Australian Railway Network (operational concept) is to provide a methodology for testing whether a proposal for rules development and/or change is within the scope of National Rules and other National Operations Publications.

It achieves this by providing a link between the seven Fundamental Operating Principles (principles), as listed in Section 1.8 of this document, and:

- a) the Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board (RISSB) Standards;
- b) the Rail Transport Operators (RTOs) operating rules;
- c) the RTO's safety management systems processes requirements.

The operational concept determines what should be included in the National Operations Publications, and it should also be used to:

- a) review the relevance and effectiveness of existing controls and identify the need for any changes;
- b) provide a scope that can guide proposals for changes to the way in which the railway is operated, and facilitate identification of consequential changes to RISSB standards or operating rules;
- c) support justification of change proposals;
- d) determine the priorities of change proposals;
- e) assist the RTOs in reviewing their standards and procedures.

### 1.2 Definitions

Definitions for the document can be found in the RISSB Glossary at the following link:

<https://www.rissb.com.au/glossary>

**National Rule Book:** a set of national rules that are contained in one publication which are considered applicable to rail operations on the Australian rail network.

**Core Rule:** Either an action that is always required or a statement that it is always necessary to act, but such actions may vary according to circumstances.

**Fundamental Operating Principle:** The fundamental objective that describes the foundation of a system for achieving a safe outcome.

**National Operations Publications:** A suite of documents that include concept of operations, national rules and guidance documents.

**National Rule:** A rule that is applicable across the national railway network.

### 1.3 Background

#### 1.3.1 Operational concept

The operation of railways within Australia is based on principles, developed by collective experience of the rail industry and endorsed by the National Rules Industry Advisory Group.