

Protection issues in Sydney Terminal

A report was made that changes to the rules and procedures meant that the level of protection afforded to workers in the Sydney Terminal area was reduced. The report was related to trains arriving into the Sydney Terminal area to have their water tanks refilled and the workers tanking these trains being placed in danger by train movements around them. It was reported that the instructions for this practice was not included when the new Network Local Appendices were introduced.

CSIRS Requirement

As part of the OTSI investigation, a Safety Valve Notification (SVN) was issued to RailCorp asking them to address these concerns and seeking clarification of rules and procedures associated with the practice of tanking at Sydney Terminal.

Investigation outcome

RailCorp advised that a review of the procedure was conducted from a Presentation Services and a Train Operators' perspective. It was found that the protection of workers during tanking operations is conducted under the rules and procedures for Controlled Signal Blocking. It was also identified that changes were needed to the documents used in the planning and implementing worksite protection for tanking operations. A more appropriate plan has been developed and the current RailCorp Worksite Protection forms are now in use.

OTSI Action

OTSI has advised the reporter of the response, actions and procedures provided by the responsible operator.

The outcomes of the inquiries made by both OTSI and the responsible operator have been recorded in the OTSI Safety Investigation Database for future review and trend analysis.