

Confidential Safety Information Reporting Scheme



Signal Box Changes

A report was made that there had been modifications made to the control panel in Strathfield Signal Box to allow for infrastructure changes to the Homebush Turn-back. The reporter was concerned that this had occurred without proper consultation with the staff that operate the signalling control panel. Further, several aspects of the indicating panel did not mimic what was actually in place at the location. It was possible, the reporter believed, that the recent introduction of a signal or set of points that were not operational would cause a misunderstanding during operations on this panel.

CSIRS Requirement

RailCorp was requested to make the Strathfield Signal Box available for an inspection by the Chief Investigator and another OTSI investigator so that they could conduct an examination of the Strathfield panel layout and interview relevant staff.

Investigation outcome

An inspection was made by OTSI of Strathfield Signal Box and the changes made to the Strathfield Control Panel. During the inspection of Strathfield Signal Box a number of staff were interviewed about the changes. Following the inspection RailCorp also provided documentation which outlined the process that was followed to institute the changes to the Strathfield Control Panel.

The inspection and subsequent documentation provided by RailCorp found that the the buttons on the control panel provided to operate the new signals and points had blocking facilities placed on them. It also found that should a signaller attempt to set an existing signal in error then the equipment will failsafe.

The documentation provided by RailCorp showed that an appropriate level of consultation and training was undertaken to institute the changes.

OTSI Action

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

OTSI has advised the reporter of the response and actions provided by RailCorp.