



Information Alert



CONTRIBUTING FACTORS FRAMEWORK – NEW TOOL TO IMPROVE ANALYSIS OF INCIDENT DATA

Rail safety investigators, rail transport operators and regulators will be able to record and analyse the contributing factors identified in systemic investigations into rail safety occurrences with the launch of a new tool – the Contributing Factors Framework (CFF).

Developed by the Rail Safety Regulators' Panel (RSRP), the CFF is a coding framework which captures and codes information about all of the factors that have contributed to a rail safety occurrence.

The CFF enables information to be recorded in a consistent way to support industry-wide analysis. It complements the principal documents used for occurrence reporting and investigation within the rail industry including ON-S1/OC-G1, the Australasian Railway Association (ARA) Code of Practice for Investigation and Australian Standard AS 4292.7.

The Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR), Office of Transport Safety Investigations (OTSI) and Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) will begin using a compatible coding framework in investigations they conduct or receive from accredited rail operators from 1 July 2009. Other rail safety regulators will also use the CFF.

The CFF's use by the rail industry is voluntary but strongly encouraged. It will deliver a range of safety benefits including:

- allowing the aggregation of data for the identification and analysis of safety trends
- allowing access to detailed information on systemic rail safety issues leading to the implementation of better safety solutions
- encouraging continuous improvement in investigation skills, processes and procedures.

ITSRR plans to disseminate information on emerging safety patterns identified using the CFF to the rail industry.

For more information on the Contributing Factors Framework go to ITSRR's website at <http://www.transportregulator.nsw.gov.au/statistics/cff.html>, the RSRP website at <http://www.rsrp.asn.au> or email ITSRR at contact@transportregulator.nsw.gov.au

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