Safety & Security

Scoping of a National Rail Safety Database (R2.108)

Background

The collection of data relating to incidents and near-miss events is a fundamental aspect of safety management across high-risk industries worldwide, and provides a critical mechanism to learn about the underlying causes of accidents. In the Australian rail industry, operators typically maintain an internal safety reporting system. However, these internal reporting systems are not linked to a national system and provide little benefit for issues such as rail level crossing safety.

Objective

This project will undertake scoping and industry consultation towards the development of a full proposal for the design and implementation of a cross-jurisdiction web-based Rail National Safety Database. The overarching aim of the project is to scope out a full proposal for the design and implementation of such a database.

Outcomes

The project will scope a database that will enable the reporting of incidents and near-miss events, and provide a central repository of data pertaining to rail safety incidents (including rail level crossings). The future database will provide an extremely powerful tool in furthering our understanding of incident causes and thus creating the evidence-base for better targeted interventions and predictive analysis.

Benefits

The future use of the Rail National Safety Database will help industry further understand the causes of incident and create the evidence base for better targeted interventions and predictive analysis.

Project timeframe

1 July 2009 to 31 August 2009

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Established and supported under the Australian Government's Cooperative Research Centres Programme