

Developing a Case for a National Standard in Fatigue Risk Management (R2.109)

Background

A Fatigue Risk Management System (FRMS) is a requirement for all rail operators in Australia. Traditional approaches to managing fatigue in the workplace have been prescriptive - such as regulating hours, breaks and time off duty. These measures typically take little or no account of the physiological determinants of fatigue. An alternative is to use a risk management approach to manage fatigue. FRMS are being implicated across a range of industries in Australia and internationally (e.g. aviation, mining and healthcare).

Objective

The project aims to develop a framework for a flexible risk-based national standard for fatigue management for the rail industry.

Outcomes

This project is being progressed in conjunction with project R2.110 (Next Generation Fatigue Models). The combined outcomes of these projects will be a framework for the use of work-related fatigue models such as FAID or other tools within a systematically implemented FRMS.

Benefits

The benefits to end-users will be

- a standardised approach to fatigue risk management based on current scientific knowledge and best practice,
- a set of practical tools and strategies to be used in the development of individual FRMS,
- standardised guidelines for the use of pre-existing fatigue management tools such as FAID, and
- a set of standardised key performance indicators against which rail operators and regulators can assess the performance of a rail organisation's FRMS.

Project timeframe

1 July 2009 to 30 November 2010