

Ensuring the Continuing Validity of Work-Related Fatigue Modelling Tools: Expanding the Database to Cover Additional Work Groups and Tasks (Scoping) (R2.110)

Background

Fatigue models are increasingly used by rail operators and regulators to manage and regulate work-related fatigue in Australia and overseas. In Australia, fatigue models were initially introduced in the early part of this decade as a decision support tool used in the design and evaluation of rosters for freight drivers. More recently, the use of these models by rail operators and regulators has been extended to include many other groups of rail workers. The original data sets underpinning the fatigue modelling software were derived from a relatively narrow selection of freight rail drivers and did not include the diversity of work groups now defined as Rail Safety Workers and increasingly managed using fatigue modelling software packages.

Objective

The project aims to improve the reliability and validity of the data used to inform fatigue models.

Outcomes

This project is being undertaken in conjunction with R2.109 (Developing the Case for a National Standard in Fatigue Risk Management Project). The combined outcomes of these projects will be work-related fatigue models that are representative of the different workgroups for which these tools are being used and reflect the current state-of-the-art for fatigue modelling.

Benefits

The benefits to end-users will be work-related fatigue modelling tools that are representative of the different social/domestic profiles of different workgroups within the industry, and have the capacity to inform the likelihood that a given shift falls within a specified fatigue score.

Project timeframe

1 October 2009 to 30 September 2012