

Rail Grinding Best Practices and Condition Monitoring Acceptance System (R3.109)

Background

Rail grinding and lubrication help in controlling surface fatigue defects, wear and noise if applied properly. They are expected to contribute to the maintenance of optimal rail and wheel profiles, elimination of corrugations and head-checks, maintenance of surface topographies, reduction of operating and maintenance costs, wheel/rail performance and the reduction of risks of derailment. The primary objective of this project is to enhance rail and wheel life and thereby increase the capacity, efficiency and safety for bulk freight and passenger traffic.

Objective

The project aims to develop good practice for a both below rail and above rail management reducing cost, risks and enhancing rail-wheel life based on rail grinding and wheel-rail condition monitoring.

Outcomes

Development of good practice decision model for combined management of below rail and above rail conditions.

Benefits

The key benefit of the project is greater rail and wheel life as a result of decisions being supported by a comprehensive decision support tool as well as enhanced rail-wheel life and reduced operational, maintenance and risk costs to the rail industry with possible savings estimated to be \$25 million per year.

Project timeframe

1 September 2008 to 31 December 2012