



Rail safety legislation

Information for rail safety workers

The *Rail Safety Act 2006* and Regulations came into effect on 1 August 2006. This fact sheet summarises the main duties and responsibilities of rail safety workers.

Who is a rail safety worker?

A rail safety worker is a person who carries out work associated with railway operations. The term covers a wide variety of roles within the rail industry and includes train drivers, signallers, track workers and train controllers.

The Rail Safety Act defines a rail safety worker in terms of the kind of work carried out, including the design, construction and maintenance of equipment or infrastructure.

A rail safety worker, for example, may be a volunteer working for a tourist and heritage railway organisation, an employee of an accredited rail operator, and/or a person working for a company that carries out work as a contractor.

Safety duties for rail safety workers

Under the Rail Safety Act rail safety workers have a duty to ensure safety by eliminating or reducing risks to safety so far as is reasonably practicable.

What does this mean in practice?

Rail safety workers need to take some responsibility for their own actions when it comes to safety. If uncertain about their safety duties a rail safety worker should always ask their employer.

A rail safety worker, when carrying out rail safety work, must:

- take reasonable care for his or her own safety, and the safety of other people who may be affected by his or her acts or omissions

- co-operate with any actions taken by his or her employer to comply with the Rail Safety Act
- not intentionally or recklessly interfere with or misuse anything provided by their employer in the interests of safety, or under the Rail Safety Act or Regulations
- not wilfully or recklessly place the safety of another person in the immediate vicinity of rail infrastructure at risk.

Obtaining a copy of the Rail Safety Act 2006

Public Transport Safety Victoria (PTSV) recommends all safety duty holders become familiar with the information contained in the Rail Safety Act and Regulations. Copies can be obtained:

- **online** - the Act and Regulations can be downloaded from the website of the Victorian Parliament (<http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au>)
- **in print** - the Act and Regulations can be purchased from the Information Victoria Bookshop at 356 Collins Street, Melbourne (telephone: 1300 366 356).

Further information

Further information can be obtained by contacting PTSV.

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