

Fact Sheet

Interface Agreements



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The Rail Safety National Law (RSNL) requires that rail transport operators (i.e. rail infrastructure managers and rolling stock operators) and road managers must enter into interface agreements to manage the risks to safety at interfaces.

Who is required to enter into an interface agreement?

Rail transport operators must enter into interface agreements with other rail transport operators to manage the risks to safety arising from their railway operations.

Rail infrastructure managers must enter into interface agreements with road managers of public roads. This involves identifying the risks to safety arising from rail or road crossings and determining measures to manage, so far as is reasonably practicable those risks.

Road managers may also be required to enter into interface agreements for rail or road crossings on private roads if the responsible rail infrastructure manager has determined that risks to safety must be managed in conjunction with the relevant road manager.

What is an interface agreement?

An interface agreement is a written agreement for managing the risks to safety at interfaces.

Interfaces include where a railway crosses another railway (including light rail or tramline), rolling stock crosses the boundary of an interface onto another railway or registered private siding, or a railway crosses a road or footpath (including by an overpass or underpass).

These agreements involve coordinating the roles of, and describing the responsibilities and authorities of, the parties involved with the relevant interface.

The parties involved in an interface agreement always include one or more rail transport operators, and may also include one or more road managers.

What is required to be included in an interface agreement?

The minimum requirements of an interface agreement are set out in section 105 of the RSNL and must include provisions for:

- > Implementing and maintaining measures to manage those risks identified during the risk assessment process.
- > The evaluation, testing and where appropriate, revision of those measures.
- > The respective roles and responsibilities of each party to the agreement in relation to those measures.

- > Procedures, by which each party to the agreement will communicate about and monitor compliance with their obligations under the agreement.
- > A process for keeping the agreement under review and its revision.

The ONRSR may give directions

If the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) is satisfied that a rail transport operator, rail infrastructure manager or road manager is unreasonably refusing or failing to enter into an interface agreement, or is unreasonably delaying the negotiation of an agreement, the ONRSR may give that party a written notice requiring them to enter into an agreement by a certain date.

If this is not complied with, the ONRSR may determine the arrangements that will apply and direct the parties involved to give effect to those arrangements. The ONRSR may also give a notice to a party requiring them to provide information that will assist the ONRSR to make such a determination.

Compliance with any direction or written notice issued by the ONRSR is mandatory and failure to comply could incur penalties.

Register of interface agreements

In addition to entering into interface agreements, rail transport operators, rail infrastructure managers and road managers are also required by the RSNL to each maintain a register of interface agreements to which they are a party and a register of arrangements determined by the ONRSR.

Further information and links

More information is available on the ONRSR website at www.onrsr.com.au.

ONRSR website – Interface coordination
<http://www.onrsr.com.au/operations/safety-management/interface-coordination>

Using the template interface agreement for rail or road crossings
http://www.onrsr.com.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/3907/Guideline-Using-the-Template-Interface-Agreement-for-Rail-or-Road-Crossings.pdf

Template interface agreement for rail or road crossings

http://www.onrsr.com.au/_data/assets/word_doc/0003/3909/Template-Interface-Agreement-for-Rail-or-Road-Crossings.doc