

NEW & IMPROVED QUEENSLAND NETWORK RULES AND PROCEDURES (QNRP).

WHAT IS QNRP?

The Queensland Network Rules and Procedures (QNRP) provide the minimum operational safety requirements for all personnel accessing and performing activities in Queensland Rail's Network Rail Corridor. The application of QNRP plays an important role in protecting workers in the corridor and particularly the "Danger Zone" from the multiple hazards presented by the rail environment.

QNRP provides a selection of risk controls, which when applied by suitably qualified workers, are able to eliminate or reduce the risk of derailment or collisions between rail traffic and workers, road traffic or equipment on track.

WHY IS QNRP CHANGING?

Following the tragic track worker fatality at Petrie in May 2017, a potential opportunity for improvement was recognised to simplify and improve the readability and understanding of QNRP. This was progressed through the Trackside Safety Program.

The Trackside Safety Program set up a Working Group comprising of Protection Officers, Network Control Officers, Safeworking Trainers and Safety representatives from all over Queensland to tackle the task of redeveloping QNRP to ensure simplified rules and procedures for safely accessing the track.

As well as simplifying and streamlining the operational procedures, the new version also provides improved clarity to operational end users (e.g. Protection Officers / Network Control Officers) through improved ease of document navigation.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- Existing work on track authorities, Absolute Signal Blocking (ASB)/Electronic Authority System Blocking (EASB), Track Occupancy Authority (TOA) and Track Work Authority (TWA) have been replaced with a single and simpler Track Authority.
- Worksites will be assessed as being Minor Work or if breaking or obstructing the track, Major Work.
- A decision tree has been developed to assist the Protection Officer in selecting the appropriate protection for the type of work.
- The new QNRP has integrated rules and procedures which has resulted in QNRP reducing from 500 pages to approximately 150 pages.
- Duplication of processes contained in multiple rules has been removed to streamline the document.
- Local Possession Authorities (LPAs) have not changed.

WHEN ARE THESE CHANGES HAPPENING?

QNRP Implementation will occur on 5 October 2020

WHO DOES THIS AFFECT AND HOW?

All current qualified Protection Officers (other than Rail Corridor Protection Officers (RCPO)) both internal to Queensland Rail and contractor Protection Officers will need to undertake transition training to become aware of the changes to QNRP.

All Network Control Officers will require transition training.

All other safeworking positions who train in aspects of the current QNRP will be provided of an awareness of the changes.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

Protection Officers

If you hold a current Protection Officer qualification you will be required to undertake a transition course that explains the new requirements of QNRP. To continue to work as a Protection Officer, you must complete the training course before the new QNRP is implemented on 5th October 2020.

If you do not complete the training before the implementation of QNRP you will not be qualified to carry out the role of a Protection Officer

Protection Officers Supervisor or Managers

Training Panel providers will undergo a Training Accreditation Process to enable them to deliver the transition training course. You will need to enrol your current Protection Officer qualified staff in a QNRP Transition course provided by your training provider. These courses schedules will be available from you training provider.

Staff that hold a current Protection Officer qualification that do not successfully complete the QNRP Transition Course will not be qualified to carry out the role of a Protection Officer after the implementation of the new QNRP. It is important that if your staff wish to maintain their currency as a Protection Officer that they complete the Transition training. If the staff no longer require the qualification, do not enrol them in the course; but they must be made aware that they are no longer qualified to perform Protection Officer duties.

IMPORTANT DATES

QNRP Implementation 5 October 2020