

Ref:	NR/L2/EBM/STP001/01
Issue:	5
Date:	3 December 2011
Compliance date:	3 March 2012

Principles of standards management

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Published and Issued by Network Rail, Kings Place, 90 York Way, London. N1 9AG.



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1 Introduction

“Network Rail standards” is the generic term for the documents that specify requirements and provide guidance directed towards securing the safe and efficient operation of the rail infrastructure. They support the overall company assurance system by specifying how Network Rail controls its principal health and safety risks, and how the organisation complies with Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSIs), domestic legislation, and Railway Group Standards.

2 Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to:

- a) provide a structured approach to standards management;
- b) outline the principles and business requirements that help establish a consistent, safe and coherent company-wide set of working practices;
- c) describe the wider framework of regulation and domestic legislation; and
- d) outline the process for emergency change.

3 Scope

This standard applies to all Network Rail standards, which represent the company documentation that details requirements and guidance to satisfy:

- a) company policy and strategy and how it is to be delivered;
- b) processes for controlling, managing and providing a safe and reliable infrastructure, operational activities and risks;
- c) requirements for the management of infrastructure and operations performance;
- d) requirements for the management of legal obligations.

This standard applies to all Network Rail people who manage the development, implementation, and non-compliance with Network Rail standards and Railway Group Standards.

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4 Information on external mandatory standards

4.1 Introduction

Network Rail standards fit within a wider framework of regulatory and domestic legislation that applies to the railway industry.

4.2 Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSIs)

TSIs are European-wide standards and set out essential requirements in eight subsystems.

TSIs are mandated in the UK through The Railways (Interoperability) Regulations 2006, and apply to certain projects and routes. Where applicable, TSIs take precedence over all other national standards, including Railway Group Standards and Network Rail standards.

4.3 Domestic legislation

Compliance with Network Rail standards does itself not absolve individuals or the company from their legal obligations under UK legislation, e.g. Health & Safety at Work and the UK Wiring Regulations.

4.4 Railway Group Standards

Railway Group Standards are produced and implemented as specified in the Railway Group Standards Code published by the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB).

Railway Group Standards take precedence over Network Rail standards.

Deviations against Railway Group Standards are monitored by Network Rail via the non-compliance database.

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5 Standards framework

The standards framework (Figure 1) is designed to enable Network Rail Standard Owners to:

- develop requirements that are designed to control and/or help mitigate against identified safety and business risks;

NOTE A standard might not be needed if there are no identified risks to be controlled.

- align those requirements (risk controls) to the relevant asset management lifecycle stages; and
- describe those requirements within a hierarchy of Network Rail standards.

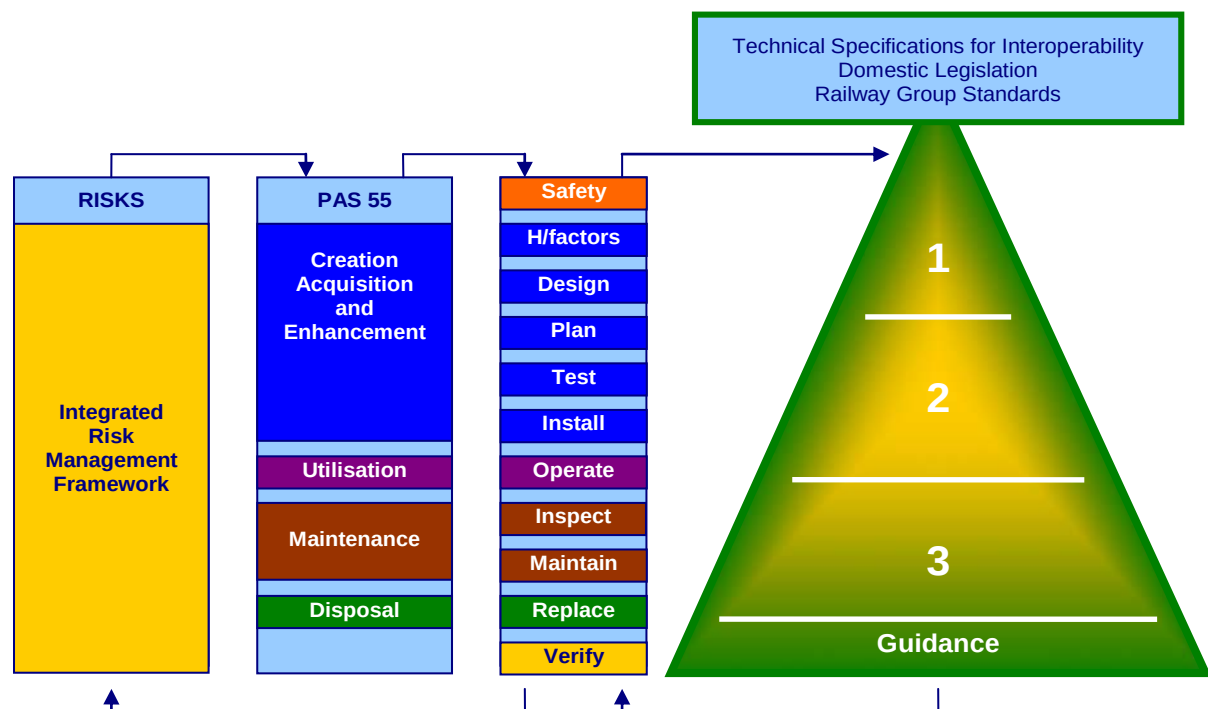


Figure 1 – Risk-based/Asset Management Standards Framework showing the relationship with regulatory and domestic legislation that applies to the railway industry