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Date:	05 December 2015
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Level 2

Product acceptance and change to Network Rail operational infrastructure

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1 Purpose

This process provides assurance to the Network Rail Assurance Panel (NRAP) that products accepted for use on or about Network Rail infrastructure are:

- a) safe;
- b) compatible;
- c) reliable;
- d) fit for purpose; and
- e) do not export unacceptable risks to Network Rail infrastructure .

It is part of a suite of processes governed by NRAP to provide appropriate review prior to projects, products and vehicles being brought into service.

The other modules in the suite are:

NR/L2/RSE/100/01 *Network Rail Assurance Panel*

NR/L2/RSE/100/02 *Application of the Common Safety Method for Risk Evaluation and Assessment*

NR/L2/RSE/100/03 *The application of the interoperability regulations for infrastructure projects*

NR/L2/RSE/100/04 *Introduction of new or modified vehicles*

NR/L2/RSE/100/06 *How to decide what needs product acceptance via NR/L2/RSE/100/05*

NR/L2/RSE/100/07 *System Review Panels*

NOTE Information on roles, responsibilities and definitions used in this module can be found in NR/L2/RSE/100/01.

2 Scope

This module mandates the process for gaining acceptance as part of:

- a) a new or modified controlled product at technology readiness level (TRL) 7 or above, whether by Network Rail or others who might affect Network Rail's infrastructure;

NOTE 1 NR/L2/RSE/100/06 provides guidance on categories of typical controlled products.

NOTE 2 Information on TRLs can be found in Appendix A.

NOTE 3 TRL 1-6 are for product development and TRL 7-9 are for product acceptance. The Common Safety Method Risk Evaluation and Analysis (CSM RA) process is conducted throughout the product development and is mandated through other business processes.

- b) a change of application of a controlled product;
- c) a change of manufacturer of a controlled product;
- d) a change of operational environment for a controlled product;
- e) a compatibility issue for Network Rail's infrastructure potentially caused by installation of a product not owned by Network Rail on the infrastructure.

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NR/L2/RSE/100/06 provides guidance on the products that require acceptance.

This module does not apply to:

- a) civil engineering infrastructure, as defined in NR/L2/CIV/003, which includes:
 - 1) structures (including equipment and support structures);
 - 2) buildings and other civil engineering infrastructure that have been designed for a unique application;
- b) trains and rolling stock

NOTE 4 Network Rail equipment or products that are mounted on, or installed in, railway vehicles that Network Rail intends to use for its own purposes are included in the scope of this module.).

The use of accepted products might also be subject to:

- a) compliance with interoperability regulations for infrastructure projects described in NR/L2/RSE/100/03.
- b) application of CSM RA, described in NR/L2/RSE/100/02.

NOTE 5 Any technology based solution being developed for implementation on the operational railway, needs to be assessed using CSM RA.

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3 Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Applicant	The Applicant may be internal to Network Rail or an external supplier. The Applicant is accountable for submitting the initial product application and requested evidence against the set requirements.
Product Acceptance Process Specialist	Delegated authority from NRAP to manage the acceptance process for applications. Liaises with Applicants, engineers and Head of Asset discipline, tracking and reporting the acceptance performance.
Catalogue Management Team	Responsible for the allocation of catalogue numbers and the entry and management of approved product details into the PADS (Parts and Drawings System) database and Network Rail catalogue (istore).
Category Manager	Responsible on behalf of the Category council to manage the supplier relationships and contractual arrangements.
Duty Holder	Responsible for carrying out a particular duty under the applicable regulations.
Lead Reviewer	Delegated authority from the Head of Asset discipline for setting the approval requirements, assessing, and recommending acceptance of the product.
Head of Asset discipline	Delegated authority from NRAP to authorise and sign off the approval of products to be used in or on Network Rail infrastructure.
Route / Infrastructure Projects	Responsible for making infrastructure available for 'trials'.
System Review Panel	Delegated authority from NRAP to set and assess requirements for multi-discipline applications.
Supplier Quality Assurance	Responsible for identification of appropriate assurance controls to the products.

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4 Product acceptance process

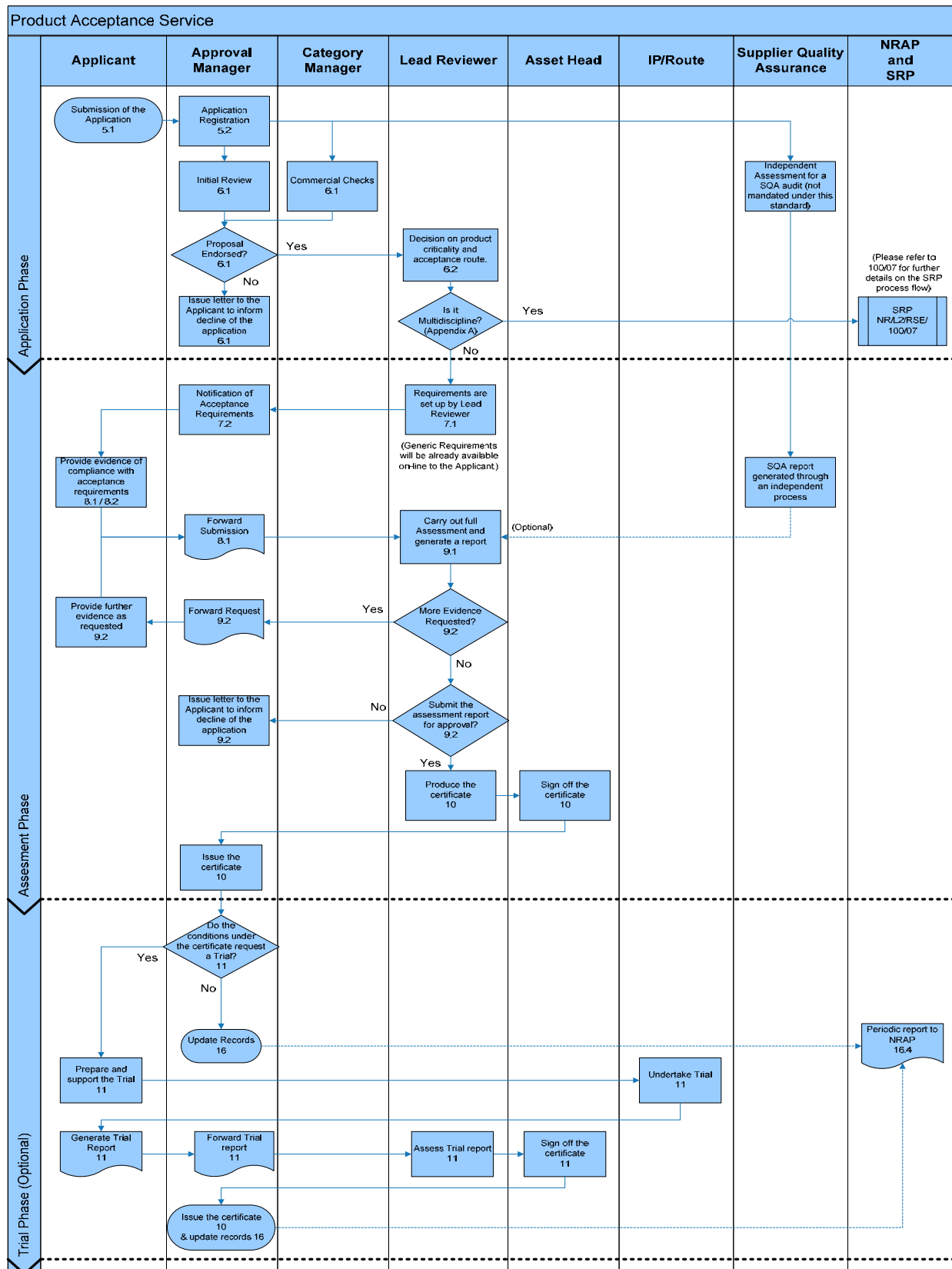


Figure 1 – High level overview of product acceptance process

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The Product Acceptance Process Specialist shall manage the product acceptance process, supported by various key stakeholders across the business, to take into account:

- a) whether the business should continue to develop and accept each application;
- b) the impact on the assessment programme and priorities.

The Product Acceptance Process Specialist shall inform the Applicant of the application status and its outcome.

NOTE Refer to Appendix C for the process to be followed when another duty holder is involved.

5 Application submission

5.1 Application form

The Applicant may refer to NR/L2/RSE/100/06 to ascertain whether the product requires acceptance.

NOTE 1 NR/L2/RSE/100/06 provides guidance on categories of typically controlled products.

New or modified controlled products shall be accepted through the process mandated in this module.

If in doubt, the Applicant may consult the Product Acceptance Process Specialist.

NOTE 2 The Product Acceptance Process Specialist might further consult with the Head of Asset discipline(s) or Lead Reviewer(s) and advise the Applicant .

Applications for Network Rail product acceptance shall be submitted to the Product Acceptance Process Specialist using the on-line form which is located on the Network Rail website.

NOTE 3 The Network Rail website includes generic product acceptance requirements and guidance notes. This will facilitate the Applicant to have early visibility of the process and be better prepared for required evidence submission.

NOTE 4 The acceptance requirements are a non-exhaustive list of generic requirements. It provides the Applicant with the opportunity to supply a proportion of the requested evidence prior to any product specific requirements which might be requested at a later stage by the Lead Reviewer.

The Applicant may submit evidence for generic requirements through the on-line application submission.

The Applicant may submit any evidence gathered as part of the project's CSM RA and / or interoperability assessments through the on-line application submission.

5.2 Registration of applications

The Product Acceptance Process Specialist shall record applications for product acceptance, acknowledge receipt and allocate a unique number.