



SA-002-00: Safety Culture

(National Regulations – regulation 17, schedule 1 cl 1-3)

Safety Culture is not easily defined but can be described as “The way that we do things around here” when we think about safety.

Safety culture is a measure of behaviour and attitude and is aligned with cultural values and beliefs. A consistent commitment to safety must be a priority for rail safety workers, volunteers and contractors who undertake work on the OTHR Network, regardless of their role.

The OTHR Management Committee, Managers and Supervisors will develop and encourage a strong positive safety culture through strong leadership and a demonstrated commitment to safety.

A strong positive safety culture is usually led from the top and this results from strong leadership and the commitment from senior roles and has some key components:

- Focus on safety leadership and commitment;
- Role of managers in safety
- Consultation and communication with all persons who are impacted by safety;
- Encouraging open and honest communication and feedback without recourse;
- Actively considering the behaviour of people and the impacts of those behaviours (human factors);
- Seeking and recognising opportunities for safety improvement, and
- A willingness to devote resources to safety.

Safety culture is only one component of a SMS but underpins and reinforces the necessary behaviours of everyone who works in the organisation. Without a positive safety culture, the SMS will become ineffective, and incidents and accidents will increase.

Associated Documents

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