

Health and Safety Commission Paper		HSC/05/68	
Meeting Date:	10 th May 2005	Open Gov. Status:	Partially Open
Type of Paper:	Below-the-line	Paper File Ref:	
Exemptions:	Para 1, 7 & 8 and Annex 1 Under section 35 Formulation of Government Policy. Until publication of report in June		

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION

Handling strategy for publication of National ERTMS Programme third year report

A Paper by HSE Rail

Advisor(s): Shirley Williams, Stephen Williams and David Morris

Cleared by Allan Sefton on 25 April 2005

Issue

1. → ←

Timing

2. The report will be published in June and HSC will wish to respond to the issues it raises. The handling strategy and plans for handling media interest need to be in place before the report is published.

Recommendation

3. That the Commission notes the proposed handling and media handling strategies.

Background

4. The Uff-Cullen inquiry recommended in March 2001 that ERTMS should be provided by 2010 for all trains running at speeds above 100mph in the UK. Following an independent review of alternative industry fitment proposals, HSC advised Ministers that the Uff-Cullen timescale was not viable and endorsed the industry's alternative proposals for implementation by 2015.

5. HSC expressed a wish to monitor the work of the national ERTMS implementation programme. HSE is represented on the NEP and is invited to comment on the year-end reports. The third report will be published by SRA in June. The timing is being driven by the abolition of SRA. The leadership of the programme will transfer to DfT.

Argument

6. The draft Executive Summary of the report is attached at annex 1 for information.

7. →←

8. →←

9. Given that the Commission has formally advised Ministers that ERTMS will be implemented on all lines which operate at above 100 mph by 2015, HSC will need to consider whether further advice to Ministers is needed in light of what could be very extended implementation deadlines.

10. We propose to invite RIAC to consider the report at its meeting on 16 June. One of the issues which will need to be included in RIAC's discussion is the measures introduced by industry to manage the risk of incidents which would be prevented if ERTMS was in place - currently the risk is approximately one 'equivalent fatality' per year. RIAC will also want to test the assumptions which have led the implementation team to conclude that earlier roll out is not feasible.

11. HSC will be invited to discuss the report on 26 July in the light of RIAC's advice.

12. The NEP team will brief the Chair and Margaret Burns before the Commission meeting in July – possibly to coincide with the publication of the report.

13. We will ensure colleagues in ORR are fully aware of how this issue is developing. SRA are arranging a meeting to consider handling and the new roles which have been created for Government players as a result of the Rail review. ORR will be invited to attend this meeting.

14. In view of the proposal to remit the report to RIAC, we do not plan to issue a press release to announce the publication of the report. We have prepared draft lines to take, which are attached as annex 2. We will develop and agree these in the cross-Government meeting referred to at paragraph 13.

15. SRA plan to publish the report before responsibility for the programme moves to DfT.

Consultation

16. The proposals in this paper have been subject to consultation within HMRI and Communications Directorate. We have also sought informal views from the Chair, Margaret Burns and HSE senior management. We have consulted Press office on the draft lines to take

Presentation

17. The HSC handling strategy and plans for handling press interest proposed in this paper are not expected to generate external interest.

Costs and Benefits

18. None associated with this paper.

Financial/Resource Implications for HSE

19. None associated with this paper.

Environmental Implications

20. None associated with this paper.

Other Implications

21. None associated with this paper.

Action

22. The Commission is invited to note the proposed handling strategy.