

Accessing Network Rail standards and controls for contractors and suppliers

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this code

This section of the code tells you about getting access to the Network Rail standards and controls, which you will need to do before carrying out work on the rail infrastructure.

2. Network Rail standards and controls

Network Rail standards and controls are a set of documents we produce to define the way we work. They set out the information we share, the principles we have and the business requirements we work to.

Together, they give us a consistent, safe and coherent set of working practices across the whole company. By having a single external source for this information, we can be sure that contractors and suppliers have access to the most up-to-date standards and controls information. We publish Network Rail standards and controls quarterly. Publication dates are the first Saturday in March, June, September and December. We'll communicate any changes through the Network Rail standards and controls awareness briefing report.

All our principal contractors:

- Should show that they have systems in place to access our standards and controls and brief their own people on changes.
- Should brief their subcontractors on changes, or assure us that the subcontractors are competent to brief themselves.
- Must not distribute our standards and controls outside their organisation.

To aid your briefing process, you may give your subcontractors a copy of the Network Rail Standards and Controls Awareness Briefing Report.

3. Who do I contact for more information?

There are a number of ways for suppliers, principal contractors and subcontractors to access Network Rail standards and controls and the awareness briefing report:

- Online: IHS Network Rail Standards Online at: <http://uk.ihs.com/products/rail/index.htm> Call IHS Customer Services on 01344 328300 for login details.
- Online: SAI Global Network Rail Standards Online <https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-gb/effective-standards-and-regulatory-management/> or call SAI Global for more details on [+44 \(0\)203 327 3140](tel:+442033273140)
- Hard copy: To buy individual standards and controls, call IHS Markit Customer Services on 01344 328300 or emeastore@ihs.com

You can also give feedback to our standards and controls team at: StandardsManagement@networkrail.co.uk

4. Challenging Network Rail Standards

The aim of Network Rail's standards is to achieve a safe, high performing, cost efficient railway system. We know, however, that they are often seen as overly complex and adding unnecessary cost. We welcome our suppliers and other stakeholders to raise a challenge to a standard where they consider it to be incorrect, not enable the application of modern/best practice, or drive increased cost without comparable benefit. A standard challenge application form and supporting guidance is available [here](#)

When reviewing any challenge received we will conduct a rigorous impact assessment across a broad range of output capabilities such as safety, performance, environment and compatibility to make sure they are not compromised.

The scope of the challenge process covers our whole portfolio of policies, standards, processes and specifications, including initiating dialogue with RSSB in relation to Railway Group and Industry Standards.