

Overview

This standard identifies the competences you need to determine the requirements for the safe access to work locations prior to undertaking a signal engineering activity. These activities could involve the maintenance, fault finding, installation or testing of signalling equipment. The type of work locations that the activities will take place in could be from a range of different sites such as trackside, internal and public, each requiring different access requirements. The signalling equipment in this standard can be for over ground or underground rail transportation systems and can be applicable for the new European Train Control System (ETCS).

The purpose of this standard is to define the competence requirements for you to access signal engineering work locations safely, effectively and in line with relevant processes and procedures.

The level and extent of responsibility shall include your own safety and that of others who you may accompany. You will be expected to refer to others for authorisation when required, be responsible for the implementation of instructions, and work within set procedures and processes. Your actions shall not compromise the safety of others.

You will be able to identify and agree the necessary safety requirements. You will ensure the implementation of the necessary safety requirements, protection and disconnection arrangements and that they remain in place throughout the duration of the signal engineering activity.

Your underpinning knowledge will provide a good understanding of the relevant processes and procedures for the safe access to a work location prior to undertaking a signal engineering activity.

Safety is a key theme throughout this standard and you will be able to identify all the necessary safety requirements and take the relevant action to ensure the safety of yourself, others and railway operations.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. work safely at all times, complying with your organisation's procedures
2. confirm the location of the activity and determine the access requirements
3. check that the requirements for safe access meet your organisation's procedures
4. advise other people as required of the requirements for safe access
5. take action to ensure the requirements for safe access to work are implemented and remain in place for the duration of the activity
6. establish and maintain communication with relevant person(s)
7. deal effectively with problems within the limits of your own authority and report those that cannot be resolved

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and safe working practices and procedures as appropriate to the activity such as Safe System of Work (SSOW)
2. the methods and techniques for conducting safety assessments, including assessment of risk
3. how to locate and safely access the work area/site
4. how to source and interpret information and document systems relating to the work area/site and activity
5. the relevant railway possession and protection arrangements for the work site and equipment to provide a safe system of work and how to check these have been implemented
6. how to secure the work area/site/system for maintenance/fault finding/installation/testing purposes
7. how to identify, agree and implement safe access
8. the relevant reporting lines and procedures that are approved by your organisation
9. the limits of you own authority and responsibility and those of others involved such as the Safe Work Leader (SWL)

**Scope/range related
to performance
criteria**

1. Follow the health and safety legislation, regulations and safe working practices and procedures, from the following as applicable to the work location:
 1. your organisation's safety management system
 2. relevant sections of the HASWA
 3. COSHH
 4. safe work plans
 5. SWL (Safe Work Leader)
 6. track access restrictions
 7. track work instructions
 8. track possession
 9. task risk control sheets
 10. current rule book
 11. regulations for working under OHLE and in the vicinity of DC lines (where appropriate)
 12. equipment disconnections
 13. manual handling regulations
 14. RIDDOR
 15. safety sign regulations
 16. PPE

2. Identify the types of documentation from the following that applies to the access requirements as applicable to the work location:
 1. signing in and off site register
 2. site briefing attendance
 3. site access authorisation card
 4. personal track safety certificate

3. Identify the access requirements related to **one** of the following types of site locations:
 1. trackside
 2. internal (such as signal box, equipment room)
 3. areas to which the public have access
 4. confined spaces
 5. elevated structures

4. Agree and implement the necessary safety requirements to ensure safe access from the following as applicable to the activity:
 1. protection and possession
 2. isolation
 3. traction supply OHLE and DC
 4. establishment of a communication system

Glossary

COSHH

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations

COSS

Controller of Site Safety

DC

Direct Current

ETCS

European Train Control System

ERTMS

European Train Traffic Management System

HASWA

Health and Safety at Work Act

OHLE

Overhead Line Equipment

PPE

Personal Protective Equipment

PTS

Personal track safety certificate

RIDDOR

Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences

Regulations

SSOW

Safe System of Work

SWL

Safe Work Leader

Your organisation

This is the company you work for or are contracted to, or, if you are self-employed, the rules you have set for yourself to ensure that you comply with relevant legal and licensing requirements.

Organisation's procedures

These are the procedures your organisation has in place to ensure compliance to the relevant rules, regulations, instructions, policies, procedures and laws relevant to the activity.

Access/Egress

Includes personnel movements both 'in' and 'out' of work locations

SEMRES205

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