

Importance of Assurance



everyone
home safe
every day

Hello everyone,

In this week's message I would like to talk about assurance, expanding on my message last week where I reflected on its importance after reading the RAIB annual report. So - why does it matter?

Carrying out effective assurance isn't just 'filling in the form'. It's much more critical than that. If we do our first line assurance properly, it not only means we are working within our required processes and standards (and complying with relevant legislation), but it also means we will spot risks, trends and potential safety problems before they happen.



Rob Cairns,
Regional Managing Director

But effective assurance only happens when people understand why it matters and have the appropriate understanding, knowledge and time to carry it out properly. Take the example of using an essential piece of plant or equipment. A pre-use check should be carried out, which is a required piece of 'level one' assurance – this activity should enable any defects or issues with the equipment to be picked up before use and prevent anything defective being used that could cause harm. Training is available for **anyone** undertaking level one assurance. It is called 'Assurance – keeping us all on track' and is available for all via Oracle. I would encourage you to think if this is relevant to your role and take part if so.

IRIS and CMO are the IT platforms that we use to record our assurance activities and associated actions – don't forget if you need help or assistance using these systems there is plenty of support available via iris@networkrail.co.uk or CMO@networkrail.co.uk.

In short, good assurance helps us to make the right decisions to keep people safe and increase the likelihood of success – key to achieving our region priorities.

Stay safe,

Rob



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