

Overview:

The current trackside sponsorship arrangements under the Sentinel scheme are applicable to organisations wanting to sponsor workers to undertake construction works on or near the line on Network Rail Managed Infrastructure. With the additional Non-Trackside Sponsorship Rules in place the ability to manage fatigue and double shifting and therefore reducing the risk of accidents will be improved.

As risks also apply to construction work in non-trackside environments, sponsorship will now be extended to also capture construction activities at Network Rail Infrastructure Projects and TfL managed sites. For that purpose, the work activities in non-trackside environments will now also be managed through the concept of personnel sponsorship, thereby allowing site access control and fatigue management to be approached holistically – in both trackside and non-trackside work environments.

What is a non-trackside sponsor?

Non-Trackside Sentinel Sponsorship is a category of membership within the Sentinel scheme that allows organisations to act as Sponsors of individuals who are not required to go trackside on the Rail Infrastructure.

What do I need to do to become a non-trackside sponsor?

In order to capture the information on workers and their work shifts and to ensure that organisations are aware of their responsibilities as sponsors, the following changes will be required with regards to RISQS:

- Organisations that wish to provide products or services that require employees to go on Network Rail or TfL managed sites will be required to:
 - register on RISQS by visiting rail.achilles.com
 - as part of the registration you will be asked to read and sign a declaration that outlines the duties of Non-Trackside Sponsors
- The declaration acceptance
 - Will be managed and captured through the RISQS pre-qualification process
 - Have a validity of one year and needs to be renewed
 - Grant the organisation the ability to sponsor personnel on Network Rail or TfL managed sites for the period of its validity
- Any changes to an organisation's ability to sponsor personnel
 - Need to be made visible on the RISQS platform - provided by Achilles
 - Need to be provided to the Sentinel scheme

Trackside sponsors are automatically approved to sponsor personnel in non-trackside environments, any organisation that has met the assurance requirements to sponsor personnel going trackside – i.e. an organisation that has passed the respective RISQS Audits - will not be required to sign the declaration.

Assurance

All non-trackside sponsors are required to comply with the Sentinel Non-Trackside Rules. Unlike trackside sponsors an audit is not undertaken prior to allowing an organisation to be a sponsor but the declaration confirms that the company will meet the scheme rules. All organisations will be required to have systems in place to meet the rules and there will be an audit of a random sample of suppliers to check that organisations do have these systems in place.

Pricing

RISQS has negotiated a £50 fee for non-trackside sponsors this includes the administration of the non-trackside declaration and also covers the cost of the random audits which will be undertaken on 5% of Non-Trackside Sponsors chosen by random selection each year, by adding this small admin fee we have been able to ensure that the random audit will be undertaken without additional cost to the suppliers.

A supplier wishing to become a Non-Trackside Sentinel Sponsor will need to:

- **register with RISQS and select the product codes relevant to the service(s) they provide**
- **sign and return the declaration to Achilles**
- **pay the administration fee which covers the cost of the random audits**

The non-trackside declaration is valid for one year and must be renewed on the anniversary of an organisation's registration. Where an organisation has become a trackside sponsor during the last registration period there is no need to renew the declaration.

Richard Sharp
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