Level 1

Policy

Environment and social performance policy
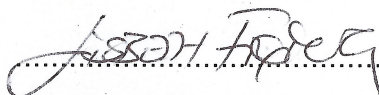
Approvals

Content approved by:

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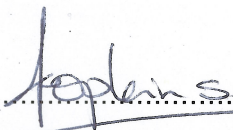
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NetworkRail

User information

This Network Rail standard contains colour-coding according to the following Red–Amber–Green classification.

Red requirements – *no variations permitted*

- Red requirements are to be complied with and achieved at all times.
- Red requirements are presented in a red box.
- Red requirements are monitored for compliance.
- Non-compliances will be investigated and corrective actions enforced.

Amber requirements – *variations permitted subject to approved risk analysis and mitigation*

- Amber requirements are to be complied with unless an approved variation is in place.
- Amber requirements are presented with an amber sidebar.
- Amber requirements are monitored for compliance.
- Variations can only be approved through the national variations process.
- Non-approved variations will be investigated and corrective actions enforced.

Green guidance – *to be used unless alternative solutions are followed*

- Guidance should be followed unless an alternative solution produces a better result.
- Guidance is presented with a dotted green sidebar.
- Guidance is not monitored for compliance.
- Alternative solutions should be documented to demonstrate effective control.

Compliance

This Network Rail standard/control document is mandatory and shall be complied with by Network Rail Limited and its contractors if applicable from 3rd March 2019.

Where it is considered not reasonably practicable[1] to comply with the requirements in this standard/control document, permission to comply with a specified alternative should be sought in accordance with the Network Rail standards and controls process, or with the Railway Group Standards Code if applicable.

If this standard/control document contains requirements that are designed to demonstrate compliance with legislation they shall be complied with irrespective of a project's GRIP stage. In all other circumstances, projects that have formally completed GRIP Stage 3 (Option Selection) may continue to comply with any relevant Network Rail standards/control documents that were current when GRIP Stage 3 was completed.

NOTE 1: Legislation includes Technical Specifications for Interoperability (TSIs).

NOTE 2: The relationship of this standard/control document with legislation and/or external standards is described in the purpose of this standard.

Disclaimer

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[1] *This can include gross proportionate project costs with the agreement of the Network Rail Assurance Panel (NRAP).*

Issue record

Issue	**Date**	**Comments**
1	September 2017	First issue

Reference documentation

ISO 14001 : 2015	*Environmental management systems – Requirements with guidance for use*
ISO 50001 : 2011	*Energy management systems – Requirements with guidance for use*

Contents

1 Purpose

This policy mandates requirements to improve Network Rail's environment and social performance through the mitigation of risks and improved delivery of environment and social management to leave a sustainable legacy for future generations.

The policy defines the high level requirements for environment and social performance management in accordance with the Network Rail Environmental and Social Performance Management System.

This policy is supported by a suite of environment and social performance standards for use throughout the business.

2 Scope

This policy applies to:

   a) all Network Rail employees, contractors or third parties working for Network Rail;

   b) premises occupied or managed by Network Rail; and

   c) Network Rail Infrastructure.

Where Network Rail is part of an alliance, the alliance can have its own policy but must, as a minimum, comply with this Network Rail policy.

This policy does not apply where Network Rail own infrastructure that is managed by a third party. In this instance any environment and social performance requirements are to be detailed in the contract and / or franchise agreement.

3 Accountable and responsible roles

The Chief QHSE Officer is accountable for providing sustainability leadership across Network Rail and leading the sustainability strategy. This accountability includes owning the appropriate environment and social performance policy and standards, compliance with which will deliver requirements of environment and social legislation and regulation, the environment and social performance management system, and minimise business risk in relation to environment and social performance management.

The Head of Environment and Sustainable Development is responsible for supporting the Chief QHSE Officer as the technical authority for environment and social performance management in Network Rail. This responsibility includes establishing the environment and social performance framework in Network Rail including standards, policy and competency requirements.

Environment and social performance management is the responsibility of all Network Rail employees.

4 Definitions

Climate change

Climate change is a significant and long term shift in global weather patterns, caused by human-induced increases in greenhouse gas emissions, primarily leading to more erratic and severe adverse and extreme weather conditions and gradual changes in temperatures, sea level and water availability.

Climate change adaptation

Climate change adaptation involves resilience of assets, networks and systems to future weather conditions to avoid, minimise or mitigate the impact of more severe or frequent adverse and extreme weather events, erratic and/or gradual changes in climate in the longer term.

Energy Management

Energy management within Network Rail includes the efficient utilisation of electricity, gas and other utilities. This policy relates to energy use across NRs non-traction portfolio.

Environmental Management

Environmental management within Network Rail is the management framework, including our policies, standards, operations and investment, designed to minimise the negative impacts, and maximise the positive impacts, of Network Rail's services, products and activities, throughout their lifecycle, on the environment.

Environment Management within Network Rail covers a number of environmental aspects and specialist areas and is specifically supported by two specialist areas that have specific policy commitments;

   i.   energy and carbon, and

   ii. weather resilience and climate change adaptation.

Social Performance

Social performance is how Network Rail's operations, activities and decisions impact people – be they employees, suppliers, rail users, communities or other groups affected by Network Rail's physical and socio-economic presence.

Weather resilience

Weather resilience is the ability of assets, networks and systems to anticipate, absorb, adapt to, and/or rapidly recover from disruptive weather events.

5 Environment and social performance policy introduction

This policy sets out Network Rail's approach to environment and social performance management which is key to achieving the company's vision – 'A better railway for a better Britain'.

As part of this vision Network Rail will improve its environment and social performance and leave a sustainable legacy for future generations. Network Rail believes that outstanding environment and social performance is a central part of being a responsible and successful company and will help it to protect and enhance the environment and communities for the future of Great Britain.

Network Rail shall:

   a) comply with all relevant environmental and social legislation and regulatory requirements;

   b) implement and maintain environmental and social performance management systems, including an environmental management system that follows the principles of ISO 14001:2015, and an energy management system in line with ISO 50001: 2011;

   c) set objectives and targets to monitor and continually improve its environment and social performance, and provide resources and information to achieve them;

   d) provide employees with the competence and training to deliver this policy;

   e) communicate this policy to its staff, suppliers and stakeholders.

6 Environmental management in Network Rail

6.1 Environmental management

Network Rail has a responsibility to conduct operations in a sustainable manner and managing the natural environment responsibly is central to that duty.

Network Rail shall:

   a) identify and manage its significant environmental impacts;

   b) take action to prevent pollution to air, water and land which might occur as a result of its operations;

   c) buy and use natural resources in a responsible and sustainable manner;

   d) reduce the amount of material it uses and minimise the amount of waste it produces;

   e) manage its land sustainably including consideration of the impacts on biodiversity.

6.2 Energy management

Network Rail has a responsibility to conduct its operations in a sustainable manner and reducing energy use is central to that duty.

Network Rail shall:

a) continually improve the energy efficiency of its estate;

b) improve operational energy and carbon efficiency through a framework of formal programmes of energy and carbon saving measures, working with third parties where appropriate to introduce innovation;

c) encourage energy efficiency throughout its workforce and good energy and carbon management in its supply chain;

d) be transparent, measure and publish information on energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and performance against its regulated targets annually;

e) encourage all business units to adopt more stretching aspirational targets than those which it is regulated against to drive activity and foster a low carbon culture;

f) examine options with regard to the use of low-carbon energy sources across its estate;

g) encourage low-carbon design and use of whole-life costing techniques to future-proof its development activities;

h) strive to improve the efficiency of delivered traction electricity, working in collaboration with its rail industry partners and electricity infrastructure third parties.

6.3 Weather resilience and climate change adaptation

Network Rail is committed to transforming the way it works so that, over time, Britain's railway becomes resilient to projected future climatic conditions at the same time as managing high risk assets which are currently disrupting operations during periods of adverse and/or extreme weather.

Network Rail shall:

a) consider how climate change might amplify existing weather related impacts and create new risks to the railway, and incorporate this understanding into analysis and decision making processes throughout the business;

b) adapt at construction and at asset renewal in order to provide resilience in the most cost effective manner by designing schemes to be resilient to future weather conditions and/or with a view to providing passive provision for future weather conditions;

c) replace like for better rather than like for like, through the application of the principles of whole life costing, when weather events cause catastrophic asset failure such as collapse of a sea wall or scour damage to a bridge;

d) incorporate climate change specifications within policies, procedures and standards so that future weather conditions are considered, appropriately captured and addressed within all the work that it does;

e) identify high priority locations for proactive resilience interventions and work to identify funding sources for those projects not included within business as usual asset policy compliance and capex investment;

f) work with the Rail Delivery Group, train operating companies, emergency response authorities and others to identify opportunities to enhance the resilience of its preparation for, response to, and recovery from the adverse/extreme weather events.

7 Social performance management in Network Rail

Network Rail will improve our social performance, deliver local social value and leave a sustainable legacy for future generations.

Network Rail shall:

a) identify its social impacts and take action to care for local communities, delivering a positive passenger experience wherever possible;

b) be a caring neighbour and engage with lineside and surrounding communities ahead of works, to avoid unreasonable nuisance or distress;

c) inspire tomorrow's workforce and support Britain's development by identifying opportunities to address the skills shortage and contribute to a thriving local economy through apprenticeships, local recruitment and local procurement;

d) keep communities safe by taking action to reduce the number of trespass incidents relating to antisocial behaviour and attempted suicides;

e) connect communities to the environment through the sensitive management of its lineside surroundings;

f) design rail infrastructure and information to be available to everyone, resulting in a service that makes travel accessible to as many people as possible;

g) promote and demonstrate respect for Britain's cultural heritage and rail history through our construction and maintenance works;

h) create and maintain positive industry partnerships, engaged employees (including a focus on staff behaviours) and a diverse workforce, working collaboratively to make rail a great experience for all.

Appendices A, B, C and D summarise the policy for each Environment and Sustainable Development focus area. They have been included in order to help communicate this policy, and are designed to be used on noticeboards to help individuals understand their commitments as part of working for Network Rail.

Appendix A – Environment Policy

Environment Policy

Network Rail runs, maintains and develops Britain's rail tracks, signalling, bridges, tunnels, level crossings and key stations. This Environment Policy sets out our approach to environmental management which is key to achieving our company's vision – 'A better railway for a better Britain'.

As part of this vision we will improve our environmental performance and leave a sustainable environmental legacy for future generations. We believe that outstanding environmental performance is a central part of being a responsible and successful company and will help us to protect and enhance the UKs environment.

We expect everyone who works for Network Rail to apply the following key principles agreed by the Executive Team to guide our work activities:

- We will as a minimum comply with all relevant environmental and social legislation and regulatory requirements
- We will identify our significant environmental impacts and manage these appropriately
- We will take action to prevent pollution to land, air and water which may occur as a result of our operations
- We will buy and use natural resources in a responsible and sustainable manner
- We will reduce the amount of material we use and minimise the amount of waste we produce
- We will manage our land sustainably including consideration of our impacts on biodiversity
- We will become more energy efficient and reduce our carbon emissions
- We will make our network resilient to weather impacts and future changes in the climate
- We will provide employees with the relevant competence and training to deliver our policy
- We will continually improve our environmental performance
- We will implement and maintain an environmental management system that follows the principles of ISO 14001:2015 with commitment from our Executive Team
- We will set objectives and targets to monitor our environmental performance

These principles and commitments complement our Energy and Carbon, Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation, and Social Performance Policies.

September 2017

Appendix B – Energy and Carbon Policy

Ref:	**NR/L1/ENV/100**
Issue:	1
Date:	02 September 2017
Compliance date:	03 March 2019

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Energy & Carbon Policy

Network Rail runs, maintains and develops Britain's rail tracks, signalling, bridges, tunnels, level crossings and many key stations. Energy use and availability is critical to the running of the railway and our Vision of delivering "A better railway for a better Britain" cannot be achieved without it. We have a responsibility to conduct our operations in a sustainable manner and so reducing energy use is central to that duty.

We are committed to achieving our target of reducing carbon emissions by 11% over the course of Control Period 5, from our CP4 exit position. Our commitment to reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions is underpinned by our Energy & Carbon Strategy and will be supported by wide-ranging supporting strategies and plans throughout our business units. This policy relates to energy use across Network Rail's non-traction portfolio.

We will comply with all applicable legal requirements which relate to energy and carbon aspects and where practicable apply accepted best practice in energy management.

We commit to:
- Continually improving the energy efficiency of our estate;
- Increasing operational energy and carbon efficiency through a framework of formal programmes of energy and carbon saving measures, working with third parties where appropriate to introduce innovation in this area;
- Reviewing our objectives and energy performance regularly and seek continual improvement through applying the principles of Energy Management System ISO 50001;
- Making available adequate resources and information to achieve our energy objectives;
- Communicating this policy to all our staff and share our policy and commitment to energy reduction with our stakeholders;
- Encouraging energy efficiency throughout our workforce and good energy and carbon management in our supply chain;
- Being transparent, measuring and publish information on energy use, greenhouse gas emissions and our performance against our regulated targets annually;
- Encouraging all business units to adopt more stretching aspirational targets than those which we are regulated against to drive activity and foster a low carbon culture;
- Examining our options with regard to the use of low-carbon energy sources across our estate;
- Encouraging low-carbon design and use of whole-life costing techniques to future-proof our development activities;
- Strive to improve the efficiency of delivered traction electricity, working in collaboration with our rail industry partners and electricity infrastructure third parties.

These principles and commitments complement our Environment, Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation, and Social Performance Policies.

September 2017

Appendix C – Weather Resilience and Climate Change Policy

Weather Resilience & Climate Change Adaptation Policy

Network Rail runs, maintains and develops Britain's rail tracks, signalling, bridges, tunnels, level crossings and many key stations. We are focused on ensuring a safe and reliable railway network and key to this is managing the impact of weather on our operations. Climate change is projected to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather and is likely to have significant impacts on our infrastructure in the future.

This Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Policy sets out our approach to achieving our company's vision of 'A better railway for a better Britain' and aims to create *a railway that is safe and more resilient to the effects of weather, now and in the future*. Network Rail is committed to transforming the way we work to ensure that, over time, Britain's railway becomes resilient to projected future climatic conditions at the same time as managing high risk assets which are currently disrupting operations during periods of adverse and/or extreme weather.

We expect everyone who works for Network Rail to apply the following key principles, agreed by the Executive Team, to guide our work activities:

- We will consider how climate change might amplify existing weather related impacts and create new risks to the railway and incorporate this understanding into analysis and decision making processes throughout the business.
- We will adapt at construction and at asset renewal in order to provide resilience in the most cost effective manner by designing schemes to be resilient to future weather conditions and/or with a view to providing passive provision for future weather conditions.
- When weather events cause catastrophic asset failure such as collapse of a sea wall or scour damage to a bridge, we commit to replacing like for better rather than like for like, with consideration of the whole life cost and the best strategic approach for managing the railway.
- We will incorporate climate change specifications within policies, procedures and standards so that future weather conditions are considered and appropriately captured and addressed within all the work that we do.
- We will identify high priority locations for proactive resilience interventions and will work to identify funding sources for those projects not included within business as usual asset policy compliance and capex investment.
- We will work with the Rail Delivery Group, train operating companies, emergency response authorities and others to identify opportunities to enhance the resilience of our preparation for, response to and recovery from the adverse/extreme weather events.

These principles and commitments complement our Environment, Energy & Carbon and Social Performance Policies.

September 2017

Appendix D –Social Performance Policy

Ref:	**NR/L1/ENV/100**
Issue:	1
Date:	02 September 2017
Compliance date:	03 March 2019

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Social Performance Policy

Network Rail runs, maintains and develops Britain's rail tracks, signalling, bridges, tunnels, level crossings and stations. This Social Performance Policy sets out our approach to managing our social impact and maximising opportunities for social and economic benefits in the work we do, all of which is key to achieving our company's vision – "A better railway for a better Britain".

We will improve our social performance, deliver local social value and leave a sustainable legacy for future generations. We expect everyone who works for Network Rail to apply the following key principles to guide our work activities:

- We will identify our social impacts and take action to care for local communities and seek to deliver a positive passenger experience wherever possible.
- We will be a caring neighbour, and will engage with lineside and surrounding communities ahead of works to seek to avoid unreasonable nuisance or distress.
- We will inspire tomorrow's workforce and support Britain's development by identifying opportunities to address the skills shortage and contribute to a thriving local economy through apprenticeships, local recruitment and local procurement.
- We will keep communities safe by taking action to reduce the number of trespass incidents relating to antisocial behaviour and attempted suicides.
- We will connect communities to the environment through the sensitive management of our lineside surroundings.
- We will design rail infrastructure and information to be available to everyone, resulting in a service that makes travel accessible to as many people as possible.
- We will promote and demonstrate respect for Britain's cultural heritage and rail history through our construction and maintenance works.
- We will create and maintain positive industry partnerships, engaged employees (including a focus on staff behaviours) and a diverse workforce, working collaboratively to make rail a great experience for all.
- We will provide employees with the relevant competence and training to deliver the social performance policy.
- We will implement and maintain a management system, and will set targets to monitor and continually improve our social performance across the network.
- We will comply with all relevant legislative and regulatory requirements relating to responsible business, including but not limited to the Modern Slavery Act, the Equality Act, the Public Services Act and the Living Wage Act.

These principles and commitments complement our Environment, Energy and Carbon, and Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Policies.

September 2017

Standard and control document briefing note

NetworkRail

Ref: NR/L1/ENV/100	**Issue:** 1

Title: Environment and social performance policy

Publication date: 2 September 2017	**Compliance Date:** 3 March 2019

Standard/Control Document Owner: Chief QHSE Officer

Non-compliance rep (Approver of TRACKER applications): Lisbeth Fromling, Chief QHSE Officer

Technical lead/contact for briefings: Rebecca Harris, Environment Management Systems Manager	**Tel:** 07715134422

Purpose:	Scope:

This policy mandates requirements to improve Network Rail's environment and social performance through the mitigation of risks and improved delivery of environment and social management to leave a sustainable legacy for future generations.
 	
The policy defines the high level requirements for environment and social performance management in accordance with the Network Rail Environmental and Social Performance Management System.
 	
This policy is supported by a suite of environment and social performance standards for use throughout the business.
	This policy applies to:
	
	  a) all Network Rail employees, contractors or third parties working for Network Rail;
	
	  b) premises occupied or managed by Network Rail; and
	
	  c) Network Rail infrastructure.
	
	Where Network Rail is part of an alliance, the alliance can have its own policy but must, as a minimum, comply with this Network Rail policy.
	
	This policy does not apply where Network Rail own infrastructure that is managed by a third party. In this instance any environment and social performance requirements are to be detailed in the contract and / or franchise agreement.

What's new/ what's changed:

This is a new standard/control document.

This standard brings together the existing Environment Policy, Energy Policy, Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation Policy and Social Performance Policy all of which have previously been approved either via the Exec, SHE Committee and / or via the National SHE Review group (NSHERG). This standard also formalises these existing policies as a Network Rail standard for the first time.

NOTE: *It is the duty of those briefed or notified, to read through this document and familiarise themselves with its content.*

Reasons for change:

Bringing the environment and social performance policy into the NR standards framework is part of building the framework for the NR environment and social performance management system. It also facilitates compliance with ISO 14001 and ISO 50001 which are held or being implemented throughout the business. Include benefits, risks mitigated, recommendations closed out etc.

Each area of the policy (Environment, Energy & Carbon, Weather Resilience & Climate Change Adaptation and Social Performance) also have ERRs with the following descriptions :

- ***Energy Management** - Failure to establish and maintain an effective energy management system leading to a failure to meet regulatory, financial and carbon targets.*
- ***Weather Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation** - The railway does not meet expected levels of performance during adverse and extreme weather events, today and in the future.*
- ***Social Impact** - Failure to deliver a positive impact on society leading to reputational damage and additional costs.*
- ***Environmental Management** (under development) - Failure to enable the business to minimise environmental impacts which can lead to unplanned costs, project delays and reputational damage.*

This policy will help mitigate the identified risks.

Affected documents:

Reference

NR/L1/ENV/100 ISSUE 1

Impact

New

Briefing requirements:

Technical briefings are given to those who have specific responsibilities within this standard/control document.

Awareness briefings are given to those who might be affected by the content but have no specific responsibilities within the standard/control document.

Details of the briefing arrangements are included in the associated briefing programme.

Briefing *(A-Awareness/* *T-Technical)*	Post	Function	Responsible for cascade briefing? Y/N
A	All employees	All	N

NOTE: *Contractors are responsible for arranging and undertaking their own Technical and Awareness Briefings in accordance with their own processes and procedures.*