

Safe systems of working trackside



everyone
home safe
every day

Dear all

From this week, the focus of my safety messaging will shift to trackworker safety activities, and safe systems of working trackside. This will be built from a culture shift towards much stronger confirming, checking and challenging, and making sure we control and manage changes to our plans.

The shift in my focus stems from a strong belief in good assurance as the best basis for decision-making. The extra lens I wish to bring to our safety culture evolves this into a mindset of curiosity, which I think strikes a very healthy balance between two critical ingredients to a strong safety culture – those being the power of doubt and the importance of resisting complacency.

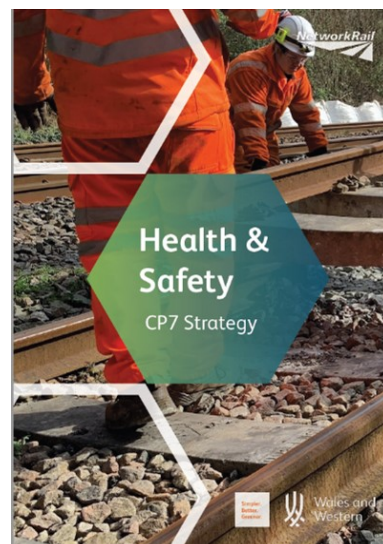
It's in this regard that I'm advocating a significant shift in focus within our region towards a very basic principle, which is: "If you haven't checked – are you sure you can claim you know?"

Put simply, this means our safety outcomes are so precious to us that the price of resting on our laurels is never worth taking. Or to put it in even more blunt terms, who is that person in our workforce whose health and wellness is it worth taking the risk of complacency on?

The four areas I will be asking for a major refreshed focus on are:



Rob Cairns,
Regional Managing Director



Health and Safety Strategy

Confirm: That our 'person in charge' nominees have had the opportunity to review and make

changes to the safe system of work pack, upon which the safety of the team underneath their control shall come to rely.

Check: That the safe work limits are clearly understood, and recognisable to everyone who needs to rely on them.

Challenge: Whether we have made appropriate use of secondary/additional protection, in line with the risk assessment process, to ensure our teams are protected from the risk of single point failure, or human error.

Change Control: Making sure we understand what is happening when our safe systems of work arrangements change, and how we control and manage these changes.

Our regional [health & safety strategy](#) is our touchstone, recognising that there are a number of areas that require very specific focus in order to make the progress against our overall health & safety outcomes.

Some of those principles are:

- We only earn trust by being clear on our intent and we do that with plain speaking.
- We do the right thing – even when no one is looking, and we go out of our way to understand our people.
- We lead fairly and proportionately – on the basis that people only do things that make sense to them, given what they have been asked to do.

These core values remain our bedrock. There is nothing we do that doesn't build out from these. I'm pleased with how our [health & safety strategy](#) is already beginning to guide how we shape and think about the culture we want. This is to make sure we are delivering everything we promised, so that our workforce goes home safe every day.

You will be hearing more from me on these topics moving forward. But, for now, please continue to share your thoughts, and let me know how we can bring this to life and make it much more 'business as usual' with what we automatically do each day. You can [reply directly to me](#) if you wish – I look forward to hearing from you.

Stay safe

Rob

This update is provided by the Wales and Western Communications team. For any queries, please contact walesandwesterncomms@networkrail.co.uk



