

National Occupational Standards **Rail Operations**



Everyone working in the rail industry must adhere to National Occupational Standards. These describe the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to undertake a particular task or role to a recognized and accepted level of competence.

For those working in rail operating services, health and safety is a critical area that must be applied to all working practices. The National Occupational Standards state what is needed to work safely in the workplace.

Rail operations employees have to:-

1. Maintain healthy and safe working practices

They must:

- use and store equipment and materials correctly
- check that, as far as practicable, the work environment is free from hazards, secure and clean
- identify and rectify hazardous situations within limits of their own authority
- take cautionary measures to warn others of hazardous situations
- take action to deal with emergencies and incidents in accordance with relevant rules, regulations, instructions and procedures
- comply with relevant rules, regulations, instructions and procedures in their work practices
- complete required documentation accurately and process it correctly

2. Contribute to the security of the work environment

They must:

- fulfill their own responsibilities for complying with security systems and procedures
- correctly obtain confirmation of visitor credentials
- promptly take the correct action in response to breaches of security
- take action which does not exceed the limits of their own authority

National Occupational Standards also exist for supervisors, telling them how to ensure that the people they manage carry out their roles safely as well as providing them with guidelines as to how to perform their own roles with health and safety in mind.

More information on Health and Safety in the rail industry can be found at <http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/>