



**NEW-TO-INDUSTRY
INFORMATION
BOOKLET**

WHAT?

So, what does it mean to be a rail safe worker?

There are several different classifications of safe workers who can perform different tasks to protect workers on worksites inside (or near to) the rail corridor. The most common form of safe worker in NSW is a Level 2 Protection Officer, and once trained up this is the role that will provide the majority of a safe workers regular income. Other competencies include Hand Signallers Level 1 and 2, Protection Officer 1, (2), 3 and 4, and safe worker 1 and 2. There is a detailed breakdown in the following pages to explain in more depth the difference between each role.



HOW?

How do you get qualified to become a rail safe worker?

To become a safe worker you will need to do a short course at a registered training organisation. We have included a link in this document to ARTC approved training providers which will get you qualified for the ARTC network. If you would like further details on gaining qualification in other networks such as the Country Regional Network, or Transport for NSW then please let us know and we can steer you in the right direction.

Once you have completed the theory component of your course then you will be required to gain experience out on track with a person who hold an equal or higher qualification of that which you are studying. This person will be responsible for signing you off on a logbook to prove that you are competent to perform all the aspects listed in your course. Once completed you will return to the classroom to have the trainer sign you off as well which is when you will be issued with a statement of attainment.

The step above is probably the most important part of the process and is where newcomers to the industry need to be careful. If you do not have the correct guidance from the right people when learning the foundations initially then you are in danger of developing habits that can potentially put not only yourselves, but also workers at risk. This is where we can help. We have safe workers in all areas that have decades of experience doing things the right way who can provide you with guidance. Our senior safe working manager is also always on hand to clarify any questions you may have, not only during your training but also once you are qualified and started to go out on track to manage your own worksites.

WHEN?

How long does all this take?

The answer to that is dependent on the individual, so it is hard to commit to an exact time frame. The theory can be done in approximately a week, but that's the easy part. Following the in-class course then the time it takes for you to be signed off and fully qualified will depend on your competency to perform the tasks to a standard that your 'mentor' deems you to be competent. While your mentor will be signing you off to allow you to get your tickets, you too also need to ensure that you feel you are capable of undertaking the responsibility of a worksite unsupervised.



WHY?

How much work will be available to me in the future?

Initially you will be new to the industry and will have to start on less complicated worksites. As an employer we spend a lot of time ensuring that the right people with the right level of experience are allocated to appropriate jobs. As your knowledge and your experience grows, so to will your workload. Good safe workers never seem to be looking for work, it comes to them. News travels fast in the rail and if you are doing a good job then employers will know your name and will be contacting you for shifts.

LINKS TO INFORMATION

FURTHER EXPLANATION/PERMITTED ACTIVITIES FOR EACH RAIL SAFE WORKING ROLE:

<https://www.artc.com.au/work/contractors/rswc/safeworking/>

SAFEWORKING MATRIX (NATIONAL UNITS OF COMPETENCY)

<https://www.artc.com.au/uploads/Safeworking-Matrix.pdf>

HOW TO FIND A REGISTERED TRAINING ORGANISATION

<https://www.artc.com.au/uploads/Finding-a-Registered-Training-Organisation-Version-2-F.pdf>



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