

Uncontrolled When Printed
RAILTRACK
Safety & Standards

Briefing Notes for:	Train Working: Competence and Fitness and supporting RACOP	
Document No:	GO/RT3255	Issue: 2
	GO/RC3555	1
Subject Committee(s)	OSSC	
Issue date:	October 2000	
Initial Compliance Date	December 2000	

BACKGROUND

GO/RT3255 Issue 1 has been revised to remove some prescription and to remove a number of measures in the standard that duplicated requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974 without adding anything.

The competence standards, currently part of GO/RT3255 Issue 1, have moved into a new Railtrack Approved Code of Practice GO/RC3555 which supports the standard. Medical fitness requirements remain in GO/RT3255.

The model adopted for the new and revised documents is similar to that used for GO/RT3251 and GO/RC3551 (Train Driving).

In conjunction with this work the opportunity was taken to review the medical requirements in GO/RT3255, revise accordingly and resolve temporary non-compliances relating to medical issues.

KEY CHANGES INTRODUCED BY THIS RAILWAY GROUP STANDARD

Fundamental changes introduced by this proposed issue 2 of GO/RT3255 are:

1. A more streamlined high level non-prescriptive Standard on Train Working
2. Introduction of a supporting Railtrack Approved Code of Practice GO/RC3555 which now contains the competence standards from Appendix C of GO/RT3255, Issue 1.
3. Revision of the medical fitness requirements in the Standard to bring them more into line with medical fitness requirements for train drivers and PTS.

There are no longer two levels of medical fitness requirements, i.e. a set of basic requirements and additional requirements for specified operational duties, in the Standard. Instead, a blanket set of requirements for all activities included in train working is now mandated.

Specific changes to medical fitness requirements include :

- Visual acuity requirements
 - to address 98/046a/TNC,
 - use of contact lenses,
 - surgical procedures
- Frequency of medical fitness assessments and re-certifications
- General health requirements

The supporting Railtrack Approved Code of Practice on Train Working GO/RC3555 in addition to containing the train working competence standards also includes an

Uncontrolled When Printed

appendix which sets out the recommended minimum performance and knowledge criteria needed for the successful performance of the role of a Competent Person, permitted to accompany a train driver when specified on-train safety equipment (eg AWS) has been isolated or is defective.

GO/RT3000 section H (ii) defines the circumstances in which a Competent Person may be used for this purpose. GO/RT3437 mandates Train Operators to define the contingency measures to be applied when on-train equipment is isolated or defective, of which use of the Competent Person is one such measure.

COMPLIANCES

The compliance date for the requirements of GO/RT3255 Train Working : Competence and Fitness is 02 December, 2000.

NON COMPLIANCES

The following Non Compliance will no longer apply when this document is introduced:

98/046a/TNC – Guards wearing contact lenses.