PPLRS12
Couple and uncouple rail vehicles

Overview

This unit is about coupling and uncoupling rail vehicles whilst making sure the work site is safe to operate in. Once the site is safe you will be involved in coupling and uncoupling vehicles in a safe manner to meet operational requirements.

This unit consists of two elements:

1. Couple rail vehicles

This element is about making sure you have a safe workplace and then safely coupling vehicles to operational instructions.

2. Uncouple rail vehicles

This element is about making sure you have a safe workplace and then safely uncoupling vehicles to operational instructions.

This unit is for those who work directly and indirectly with passengers and the running of trains. It is particularly appropriate for those who undertake a shunting role and may be suitable for those undertaking a passenger services role.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Couple rail vehicles

P1 adhere to safety procedures
P2 access and analyse all relevant information making sure that it is accurate
P3 check that stationary rail vehicles are secured safely and correctly
P4 establish the compatibility of the rail vehicle coupling equipment
P5 establish the need for specialist coupling equipment
P6 communicate with the relevant persons clearly and effectively
P7 establish correctly the fitness for use of all required coupling equipment
P8 operate the coupling equipment safely and correctly
P9 verify that the rail vehicles have been coupled safely and correctly
P10 take remedial action, within the limits of your own authority, where rail vehicles have not been coupled safely or correctly

You must be able to:

Uncouple rail vehicles

P11 adhere to all safety procedures
P12 access and analyse all relevant information making sure that it is accurate
P13 check that rail vehicles are stationary and the remaining vehicles are secured safely and correctly prior to uncoupling
P14 establish correctly whether the rail vehicle is ready to be moved
P15 communicate with the relevant persons clearly and effectively
P16 establish correctly the fitness for use of all required coupling equipment
P17 operate the coupling equipment safely and correctly
P18 verify that rail vehicles have been uncoupled safely and correctly
P19 take remedial action within limits of your own authority where rail vehicles have not been uncoupled correctly and safely

PPLRS12
Couple and uncouple rail vehicles

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Couple rail vehicles

K1 your organisation's procedures relating to coupling and safely securing rail vehicles
K2 how to obtain relevant information
K3 the lines and methods of effective communication within your organisation
K4 the local methods of working
K5 the types of equipment required for coupling and the use of this equipment
K6 how to identify and report defective equipment
K7 the limits of your own authority
K8 the types of coupling systems there are and how they operate
K9 how to verify that rail vehicles have been coupled safely and correctly

You need to know and understand:

Uncouple rail vehicles

K10 your organisation's procedures relating to uncoupling and safely securing rail vehicles
K11 how to obtain relevant information
K12 the lines and methods of effective communication within your organisation
K13 the local methods of working
K14 how to identify and report defective equipment
K15 the limits of your own authority
K16 the types of coupling systems and how they operate
K17 how to verify that rail vehicles have been uncoupled safely and correctly
K18 how to ensure that rail vehicles are safely secured

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Additional information

Glossary

Your organisation
This is the company you work for or, if you are self employed, the rules you have set for yourself to ensure that you comply with relevant legal and licensing requirements

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