Operate and control trains in service

Overview

This NOS is about operating and controlling a train. You should be able to drive a train safely, efficiently and effectively. You must know and understand the current rules, regulations and instructions associated with operating a train in service. You will also know and understand the benefits of driving to optimise energy consumption and to minimise wear and tear to the vehicle.

This NOS consists of three elements:

1. Operate and control trains in service

This element is about controlling a train from start to stop following all the appropriate signals, rules, regulations and instructions.

2. Monitor and maintain progress against the operating schedule

This element is about ensuring a train follows the given schedule/timetable and that variations are understood and dealt with.

3. Maintain efficient driving practices

This element is about driving a train in the most efficient way to minimise cost and environmental impact.

This NOS is for those who work directly and indirectly with passengers and the running of trains. It is particularly appropriate for those who undertake a driving role.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Operate trains in service

1. carry out pre-commencement activities in line with your organisation's procedures
2. commence train movements safely
3. respond correctly to approved signals, lineside signage and authorise personnel on or near the line, at all times
4. communicate with signalling staff and other relevant person(s) in line with your organisation's procedures
5. verify the operational efficiency of the braking system according to your organisation's procedures
6. regulate speed in order to comply with train and line speed restrictions and railhead conditions
7. regulate your driving to take account of actual or potential hazards which may arise
8. maintain all round vigilance and awareness at all times
9. respond to in-cab warning indications promptly and correctly
10. use and respond to warning devices appropriately
11. correctly position and secure the train in order to enable safe loading and unloading
12. report defaults and hazards in line with your organisation's procedures

Monitor and maintain progress against the operating schedule

13. identify any variations in train performance
14. investigate any variations in train performance within the limits of your own authority and report them to the relevant person(s)
15. make scheduled stops, within operational constraints, that conform to timetable requirements
16. identify deviations (or potential deviations) from the operating schedule and report them to the relevant person(s)
17. minimise delays and disruptions where operating schedules cannot be adhered to
18. complete required documents accurately and process them correctly
19. comply with any relevant rules, regulations, instructions and procedures

Maintain efficient driving practices

20. minimise the energy consumption of a train within operational constraints
21. minimise the wear and tear of a train, within operational constraints

22. adjust driving techniques according to train type, railhead conditions and route characteristics
23. adjust your driving techniques where applicable, in order to maximise customer satisfaction

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Operate trains in service

1. your organisation's procedures for operating trains in service
2. the route, routes or authorised diversions which are to be undertaken by you on the journey
3. the types of signalling equipment and lineside signage
4. how to respond to signals and lineside signage
5. why authorised personnel might be on or near the line
6. the train and line speed restrictions on the route to be driven
7. the types of railhead conditions encountered and the correct operational response
8. the correct positioning and securing of a train for loading and unloading
9. the braking systems efficiency instructions
10. the types of distractions that can occur whilst driving
11. why it is important to be vigilant and aware at all times
12. the warning devices that must be used and responded to
13. why it is important to respond to warnings promptly
14. the types of warning systems and devices
15. actual and potential hazards
16. the procedures for reporting defaults and hazards

Monitor and maintain progress against the operating schedule

17. your organisation's procedures relating to monitoring and maintaining progress against operating schedules
18. how to interpret working timetables or schedules
19. load characteristics and their effect on train performance
20. actions to take when operating schedules cannot be adhered to
21. how to prioritise actions to minimise delays and disruptions
22. the relevant documentation completion requirements within your organisation
23. the limits of your own authority

Maintain efficient driving practices

24. your organisation's procedures relating to efficient driving practices
25. the importance of undertaking efficient driving practices
26. the route, routes or authorised diversions to be undertaken by you on the journey

27. how energy consumption can be minimised
28. how wear and tear of a train can be minimised
29. the correct positioning requirements for loading and unloading
30. the availability and use of adhesion aids and techniques
31. the lines and methods of effective communication within your organisation

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.

Hazard

Something with the potential to cause harm (this can include articles, substances, plant or machines, methods of work, the working environment and other aspects of work organisation).

Your organisation's procedures

These are the procedures an organisation has in place to ensure compliance to the relevant rules, legislation, regulations, instructions, policies, systems, licencing and laws relevant to the activity and its environment.

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