Standards Challenge – Application Form

Guidance for Completing the Standards Challenge Application Form

The standards challenge application form can be used to submit a challenge to a Network Rail standard, policy, rule, specification, business process or work instruction that is considered to: (i) be incorrect; (ii) not enable the application of modern/best practice; or (iii) drive increased cost without comparable benefit. The form can also be used to initiate dialogue with Network Rail regarding a potential challenge to Technical Standards for Interoperability, Group Standards or Rail Industry Standards.

The form is relatively straightforward to complete. The PURPLE TEXT in the form is intended to provide further guidance or examples relating to the information requested and should be overwritten or deleted if the form field is not used.

Section 1 is used to capture the applicant details.

Section 2 is to ascertain whether or not the application is being made in connection with an existing or forthcoming project and if so capture the relevant details.

Section 3 asks whether the application needs to be treated as confidential. If not, details of the application may be made available to other parties so they have visibility of the challenges that are being raised, or to provide examples of good practice.

Section 4 is focused on the heart of the challenge seeking details of what is being proposed, why and the benefits it may bring? There are some key questions in this section that will help with further evaluation. It particular the question relating to the potential scale of application is seeking to identify if it is a project specific application and/or whether it could have potential national application. For example could it impact large quantity and/or high cost items such as electrification, track, structure, plant or signalling assets? This section also seeks information on what could potentially be involved in modifying the standard and any subsequent impact on training.
The completed form and supporting information should be sent to standardsmanagement@networkrail.co.uk and the application will follow the process below.