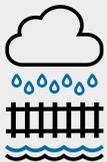


Group Safety, Technical and Engineering

Group Safety, Technical and Engineering (STE) is the Technical Authority for Network Rail. Train performance and safety depend on strong technical capability. STE assures the way assets are managed and maintained, assures operations are safe and secure for passengers and the workforce, assures the way we manage information and assures that the way we run the railway is sustainable environmentally and affordable in the long term. Complementing our assurance role, we deliver key national programmes and offer expert services.

We support the route businesses to deliver and innovate to meet increasing expectations from customers. In practical terms that means optimising standards, processes and tools to reduce costs, improve capability and increase performance to achieve a right time railway, both now and for the long term. For much of the rail network that support means helping the route businesses achieve 21st century safety and performance from what are fundamentally 19th century assets.

In CP6 we are particularly focussed on improving asset reliability including:



Weather resilience and adaption to climate change



Reducing energy and carbon levels



Eliminating accidents

We are striving to achieve better asset reliability, to improve the availability of the infrastructure, by supporting the routes to achieve a greater than 10 per cent reduction in the level of service affecting failures in CP6. This is driven through the Intelligent Infrastructure programme to apply technologies to predict failures allowing routes to intervene without disrupting passengers and freight. To improve access to work on our increasingly intensively used infrastructure we will also complete a programme to improve electrical safety including remote isolation and securing.

Under our responsible railway plan we are supporting routes to reduce energy levels used by Network Rail's infrastructure by 18 per cent and its carbon use by 25 per cent. We are determined to reduce risk at level crossings by a further five per cent, and under our Home Safe Plan we are improving the safety of trains with a 10 per cent reduction in train accident risk and supporting routes to ensure our workforce is best placed to serve customers by reducing mental health related sickness absence and workforce safety risk.

As well as driving short term improvements we are managing the research and development (R&D) portfolio to build a pipeline of change through technology and supported by our test tracks at Melton and Tuxford that offer services for new train and product introduction and are home to world-leading rail technology R&D. The R&D portfolio brings together needs from across Network Rail to improve future safety, reliability, cost efficiency and growth. Our particular focus in CP6 drives asset sustainability to reduce the cost of, and need for, renewals.

STE is the home of leading edge international railway practice and technology development covering the whole railway system. This encompasses collaborations in the UK, Europe and internationally. Framed by 50 published challenge statements, our relationships with suppliers, research and technology organisations and Government enables us to build and maintain partnerships that share costs and knowledge and shape national and international investment. Through these relationships we also influence railway legislation and regulations.