

FACT SHEET:

THE COST OF AUSTRALIAN TYPE APPROVAL PROCESSES



Nationally consistent, standardised type approval (TA) processes can save time and money, and support improved efficiency and safety in the rail industry.

WHAT ARE TYPE APPROVALS?

Type approvals confirm a product used in a specific rail network meets the operators' requirements and is fit for purpose.

RiSSB developed a standard called AS 7702 - Rail Equipment Type Approval in 2014 to provide a common framework for transport operators to evaluate TAs for railway products. But despite this,, there are still differences in how this process is currently managed by each individual rail operator. This means a product needs to be approved separately for each rail operator.

WHY A NATIONAL APPROACH IS NEEDED

The current approach adds cost and complexity for industry. It means multiple sets of documentation, studies, trials and evaluations may be required to approve one product across different jurisdictions or rail networks. This can limit competition and innovation in the Australian rail industry.



**\$230 million in additional
costs per year**



**Significant duplication
with different processes
required for each
jurisdiction or operator**



**Limiting innovation
by making it harder to
approve new solutions**



REFORMING THE TA PROCESS

A new approach to the TA process would save time and money, allowing industry to move ahead with maintaining existing ways of working, while ensuring a strong focus on assessing new solutions.

Standardising proven approaches

Creating nationally consistent standards for products that are used to maintain the status quo would streamline approval processes and make it easier to maintain existing operations.

This would:



- Save the rail industry \$40 million each year



- Improve outcomes and address inconsistencies currently experienced by the industry



- Make it easier to use products that maintain the existing condition of rail assets

Using the TA process to drive innovation and new solutions

Concentrating the TA process on new solutions would put the focus on assessing products and technologies that can make a material change to rail operations. This would support the adoption of innovation, while maintaining a strong focus on quality and safety. This would:



- Streamline the number of applications and the costs incurred



- Make it easier for suppliers of new products and technologies to seek type approval



- Lead to better outcomes for industry without compromising safety

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IMPROVING THE TA PROCESS

The Australasian Railway Association and Rail Industry Safety and Standards Board engaged Synergies Consulting to review type approval processes in 2022. For more information, view the full research report [here](#).