



RIS-2701-RST issue two NDT Processes on Rail Vehicles

Background

Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) is typically performed on safety critical components and is an important part of rail vehicle maintenance. Operatives, equipment, processes, and facilities are assessed and certified for competence and fitness for purpose. There is a recognised certification body, the British Institute for Non-Destructive Testing (BINDT), which owns and operates the personnel certification in non-destructive testing scheme, but this is much broader than for just railway applications. There are also other certification schemes and internationally recognised standards covering this topic that are of relevance, and the relevant details and references that are of use to the railway industry need drawing together in a single document.

What is it about?

RIS-2701-RST contains requirements, rationale, and guidance for the preparation, validation, and certification of NDT procedures, equipment, facilities, and operatives. The RIS references external standards that provide more detailed requirements and information, compliance with which permits a presumption of compliance with RIS-2701-RST.

The standard makes specific mention of non-destructive axle testing but is to be applied to any non-destructive testing process used for the maintenance of railway vehicles.

What has changed?

The revision of RIS-2701-RST has updated the sequence, structure and layout of its clauses. This has improved its readability and usability. The references to external standards have been amended to the current versions and, where possible, these are now to recognised European or international standards, making the standard up to date and fit for purpose.

Although the technical content has not altered significantly, requirements are now clearly distinguished from other content making the expectations of the user more explicit. Rationales are provided for requirements to help understand their intent or purpose and the guidance has been refined to provide greater assistance to the user.

What are the benefits?

The revision provides greater clarity in preparing test procedures, approval of new techniques, the certification of equipment, facilities, and operatives. This should result in improvements to these procedures in organisations conducting NDT, with the aim of introducing efficiencies, new techniques, and improving overall safety.

Who is it for?

This standard is targeted at individuals and organisations that undertake; NDT on railway vehicles, NDT operative training, preparation of NDT procedures, and validate and authorise NDT procedures, equipment and facilities. It is also aimed at organisations that own, operate, or maintain rolling stock that requires NDT to be performed on it.