



20<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**ADVANCED NOTIFICATION WITHDRAWAL OF STANDARD NR/L3/OHS/019 – IP and SAFE WORK LEADER (SWL) COMPETENCE.**

**FAO: Sponsors, Training Providers, Principal Contractor Licence holders, Infrastructure Safety Leadership Group, RICA, RIA, NSAR.**

### Background

Following a number of accidents, incidents and subsequent investigations, including Network Rail's into Kensal Green, a review of standard NR/L3/OHS/019 – IP, was undertaken along with feedback from users and Network Rail and Industry stakeholders. As a result, the standard is in the process of being removed.

The removal of this standard will mean that the Safe Work Leader (SWL) 1 /2 and Safe Work Manager (SWM) competencies will also be removed.

### Detail

This is an advance notice to the withdrawal of this standard and you will be notified in due course of removal and compliance dates.

In lieu of the standard removal, it has been agreed to automatically extend any SWL 1, 2 and SWM competences held and due to expire until the compliance date. After which time SWL competencies will be removed.

There is no requirement to put colleagues through any recertification course- negating any unnecessary time or costs.

### Action Required

- No immediate action is required.
- Communicate to SWL 1, 2 and SWM competent staff that any expiry date will be extended
- Withdraw any staff from SWL recertification training
- Training providers do not arrange any SWL recertification training
- Planned works will continue as normal
- Works before compliance date will be undertaken under current arrangements.

### Useful Links

[UK Network Rail Standards, Codes and Specifications | IHS Markit](#)

[Sentinel \(railsentinel.co.uk\)](https://railsentinel.co.uk)

[Frequently Asked Questions \(Page 2\)](#)

[cwsafety@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:cwsafety@networkrail.co.uk)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Brady".

Paul Brady  
Principal Workforce Safety Specialist

## Frequently Asked Questions

Why not an immediate withdrawal?	<p>There are many works, and possessions that any immediate change would import confusion and add risk to the task.</p> <p>An agreed future compliance date allows for planning, competence level, and safe system of works to be correct.</p>
Are Sentinel aware?	<p>Yes. The Sentinel team are updating systems with expiry dates to the new date and have been in communication with training providers.</p> <p>The Sentinel helpdesk team are also aware of changes.</p>
My SWL competence is due to expire. What should I do?	Your SWL competence expiry date will automatically be extended
Have the supply chain been involved?	Yes. These include, The Industry Safety Leadership Group (ISLG) Track Safety Alliance (TSA) have been consulted and are in full agreement
What happens after compliance date?	After compliance date all SWL and SWM competences will be removed, and safe of systems of work will need to be compliant with all applicable standards.
Does this affect Network Rail staff	<p>Any holding SWL and SWM competences are included.</p> <p>The standard being removed is only applicable to those on Capital Delivery worksites</p>