RAILWAY SAFETY REGULATOR

RAIL SAFETY ON THE RIGHT TRACK

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

05 NOVEMBER 2026

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS FOR INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL AND REGULATORY REVIEW OF THE RSR-DEVELOPED DRAFT RAILWAY SAFETY REGULATOR STANDARD FOR RAILWAY OPERATING RULES AND METHODS (TOR & M)

1. Purpose

1.1. To invite service providers to send quotations for RFQ to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Service Provider to independently review the Draft Railway Safety Regulator Standard for Railway Operating Rules and Methods developed by the RSR and recommend and prepare evidence-based improvements.

1.2. The review shall establish whether the Draft Standard is technically sound, sufficiently comprehensive, risk-informed, clear, consistent, enforceable, practical for South African railway operations, and aligned with the Act and the intended open access and interoperability framework.

1.3. The RSR retains ownership of the Draft Standard and sole authority to accept or reject recommendations, authorise consultation text and approve the final proposed standard.

2. Considerations/background

2.1. The Railway Safety Act, 2024 (Act No. 30 of 2024), together with the National Rail Policy of 2022, provides the regulatory context for safe, harmonised and interoperable railway operations, including an open access environment.

2.2. Railway Operating Rules and Methods govern train operations as guided by authorisation and control of train movements, shunting, communication, safe working, protection of personnel, and degraded, abnormal and emergency operations.

2.3. The rail sector uses operator and network rule books, safe-working instructions, procedures

and applicable SABS/SANS and RSR standards. Inconsistencies, omissions or conflicting requirements may affect safe operations, interoperability and the effectiveness of regulatory oversight.

2.4. As part of its Regulator Standards Development Programme, the Railway Safety Regulator (RSR) has developed an initial Draft Railway Safety Regulator Standard for Railway Operating Rules and Methods (the Draft Standard). The Draft Standard will be furnished to the appointed Service Provider as the baseline for this assignment.

2.5. The RSR requires an independent, evidence-based technical and regulatory review of its Draft Standard before further consultation and approval. The appointment is for REVIEW and targeted recommendations and revisions to the RSR-developed document; it is not for de novo development of an unrelated standard.

3. Project Objectives

The objectives of this assignment are to:

3.1. Evaluate the RSR Draft Standard against the Railway Safety Act, 2024, relevant regulatory instruments, National Rail Policy of 2022 and applicable RSR and SABS/SANS instruments.

3.2. Identify safety-critical omissions, contradictions, overlaps, ambiguities, regulatory gaps and implementation risks.

3.3. Assess the consistency and applicability of requirements to passenger, freight, mixed traffic, heavy-haul, industrial and tourist/heritage contexts, where relevant.

3.4. Benchmark selected high-risk requirements against relevant international railway operating and safe-working regulatory practices, where justified.

3.5. Assess the practicality and enforceability of requirements, accountabilities, interfaces and verification evidence.

3.6. Provide a traceable review matrix, prioritised recommendations and an annotated/revised version of the RSR Draft Standard for RSR consideration.

3.7. Support RSR technical working group reviews, governance presentations and, if instructed, public consultation comment resolution and finalisation.

4. Scope of work / Specification

Specifications are as follows: RFQ to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Service Provider to independently review the Draft Railway Safety Regulator Standard for Railway Operating Rules and Methods developed by the RSR and recommend and prepare evidence-based improvements.

4.1. **Project inception:** Hold a kick-off meeting with the RSR and agree the document baseline, review methodology, assessment criteria, information requests, engagement plan, programme and deliverable acceptance process.

4.2. **Regulatory and Operational Alignment Assessment:** assess the RSR-developed Railway Operating Rules and Methods Standard against applicable South African railway legislation, regulatory requirements, existing RSR and SABS/SANS standards, railway operating rules, methods of train working, safe-working instructions, operational procedures and established railway industry practices. The assessment shall identify gaps, inconsistencies, overlaps and areas requiring alignment or improvement, taking into consideration the operational requirements of railway operators and network owners, open access arrangements and interoperability.

4.3. **Clause-by-clause review:** Test each material requirement for its safety objective, completeness, internal consistency, clarity, feasibility, inspectability, evidence requirements

and compatibility with other rules and standards. Provide clause references and findings.

4.4. **Technical coverage review**: Assess the standard, where applicable, the following topics:

- rules governance, hierarchy, controlled changes, temporary instructions and notices;
- train working methods, movement authorities, route setting, train control and dispatching, including non-signalled and degraded operations;
- operational communication, standard phraseology, read-back and communication failures;
- occupations, possessions, protection of work on or near the line, isolation and restoration;
- shunting, coupling/uncoupling, propelling, yard, depot, terminal and siding movements;
- abnormal and emergency working, failures, stranded trains, collisions, derailments, rescue and evacuation;
- interfaces among network, train, station and siding operators, contractors and other parties in open access operations;
- passenger/freight and special movements, engineering/on-track vehicles, exceptional loads, level crossings and station/platform interfaces;
- competency, route and rule knowledge, training, authorisation, fitness-for-duty and relevant human factors; and
- allocation of responsibilities, safety verification, auditable compliance and proportional requirements.

4.5. **Interfaces and consistency:** Identify potential conflicts with applicable SANS or RSR standards.

4.6. **Findings and recommendations:** Recommend appropriate amendments to ensure that the standard is technically sound, legally enforceable, operationally practical and aligned

with the South African railway regulatory environment.

4.7. **Issue Register:** Provide a controlled issues register with supporting evidence, affected clause(s), proposed wording, justification, proposed responsible operator and recommended disposition. Distinguish mandatory safety provisions from guidance or operator-specific procedures.

4.8. **Working group and governance support:** Facilitate technical review sessions with the RSR-appointed Working Group; record decisions; present findings and revisions to the relevant RSR structures (Technical Committee, OPCO, EXCO and Board as applicable). Working Group inputs are advisory.

4.9. **Draft revisions:** Supply an edited version of the RSR Draft Standard in tracked changes and a clean consolidated version containing only changes recommended for RSR consideration. No changes are deemed accepted without RSR written approval.

4.10. **Consultation support (when authorised by RSR):** Assess public/stakeholder submissions, compile a comment-response matrix, propose justified amendments, and deliver a final proposed reviewed Standards incorporating only RSR-approved changes.

4.11. **Close-out:** Transfer all editable reports, matrices, presentations, marked-up drafts, clean drafts, version histories and supporting evidence to the RSR. Publication and regulatory approval remain the responsibility of RSR.

5. Project deliverables

All deliverables shall be supplied in editable electronic format and searchable PDF, with written RSR acceptance. Scope and review-cycle dates shall be agreed in the inception phase.

No.	Deliverable	Minimum contents

5.1	Inception Report and Project Execution Plan	Methodology, document register, assessment framework, resources, milestones, dependencies, quality controls and review meetings.
5.2	Independent Technical and Regulatory Review Report	Clause-by-clause assessment, legal/regulatory alignment, safety-critical gaps, benchmark findings, implementation and enforcement issues, prioritised recommendations and supporting evidence.
5.3	Review and Traceability Matrix	For each finding: clause, issue, risk/priority, evidence, proposed amendment, rationale, RSR disposition and status.
5.4	First Reviewed Draft Standard	Tracked-changes version of the RSR draft and clean version for technical review; synopsis of substantive proposed amendments.
5.5	Engagement and Consultation Records	Technical workshop minutes, decision log, presentations and, if commissioned, public comment-response matrix.
5.6	Final Proposed Reviewed Standard	Clean and tracked changes versions incorporating RSR-approved technical, consultation and governance inputs.
5.7	Final Close-out Report	Executive summary, outstanding issues, implementation considerations, source list and handover of all project files.

6. Qualifications and Experience

6.1. The bidder shall demonstrate experience in either independent review, development, assessment or implementation of railway operating rules, or methods of train working, safe-working arrangements, operating standards or railway safety regulatory instruments.

6.2. A minimum of two suitably qualified specialists are required:

(a) ***Project Lead / Railway Operating Rules and Methods Specialist;*** and

(b) ***Railway Operations / Safe-Working Specialist.***

Note: One person may not be counted as both of the required two specialists.

6.3. Each specialist must hold an NQF level 7 or higher qualification in railway operations, transportation, safety management, engineering, operations management or a relevant discipline, or SAQA-verified international equivalent, together with demonstrable relevant practical experience.

6.4. Knowledge of South African network/operator interfaces, degraded modes, movement authorities, shunting, possessions, emergencies and relevant regulatory oversight is required.

7. Administrative / Compliance Requirements

7.1. Registration on National Treasury CSD report

7.2. Comprehensive quotation (prices must be VAT Inclusive)

7.3. Tax Pin & Tax clearance certificate

7.4. Fully Completed and signed Standard Bidding Documents (SBD) forms documents

7.5. A valid BBBEE certificate or sworn affidavit (on sworn affidavit indicate the day, month and year of the financial year period ie, 31 March 2022)

7.6. Valid company registration documentation that are issued by Companies & Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC)

7.7. A Copy of the identity document of the company owner(s)

7.8. Valid Medical Certificate

7.9. Valid South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) registration **(Where applicable)**

7.10. Valid National Council for Persons with Physical Disability in South Africa registration (NCPPDSA)

*Failure to submit valid documents listed above (**No - 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10**) for proof of claim specific goals as stipulated in Section 6 below will lead to the service provider not being awarded points for specific goal*

8. Functionality Evaluation Criteria

8.1. The suitable service provider must demonstrate capacity and capability to execute this project by complying with the functionality criteria on the table below:

No.	Evaluation Criteria	Points Allocations	Weight
1.	**COMPANY'S EXPERIENCE ON SIMILAR PROJECTS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED** Contactable, signed client reference letters for completed comparable railway rules/standard/regulatory review or implementation projects within the previous 15 years	• **5 References** = 20 points • **4 References** = 16 points • **3 References** = 12 points • **2 Reference**s = 8 points • **1 References** = 4 points • **0 Reference** = 0 points	**20**
2.	**BIDDER'S TEAM QUALIFICATION & EXPERIENCE (50 MAX)** 1. Copies of CVs. (clearly indicating number of years' experience with a specific employer working on relevant or similar project)		

	2. Certified Copies of original certificates of academic qualifications (Certified copies to be not older than 6 months) The CV and certificates of individuals will be used for evaluation of each of the key personnel for this section The scoring of the key personnel will be as below:		
2.1.	**Project Lead Qualifications** The CV and certificates of individuals will be used for evaluation of each of the key personnel for this section Qualifications to be in either Railway Operations, Transportation, Railway Safety Management, Engineering, Operations Management or a Relevant Railway Operations Discipline, or equivalent as verified by South African Qualification Authority (SAQA). [It is the responsibility of the bidder to secure the verification]	***Relevant NQF Qualifications Assessment:*** NQF Level 9 or above =15; NQF Level 8 =12; NQF Level 7 =9; below NQF Level 7 =0. This is Certificates and SAQA equivalence where relevant.	**15**
2.2.	**Project Lead Relevant Experience (Experience in railway rules/standard/regulatory review or**	• 10 years or more = 10 points • Greater or equal to 5 years but less than 10 years = 8 points	**10**

	implementation also in in line with clause 6.4). The CV will be used for evaluation of each of the key personnel for this section (must be submitted by the Bidder)	• Greater or equal to 2 years but less than 5 years = 6 points • Greater or equal to 1 year but less than 2 years = 4 points • Less than 1 year = 0 points	
2.3.	**Railway Operations Specialist Qualifications** Qualifications to be in either Railway Operations, Transportation, Railway Safety Management, Engineering, Operations Management or a Relevant Railway Operations Discipline, or equivalent as verified by South African Qualification Authority (SAQA). [It is the responsibility of the bidder to secure the verification]	***Relevant NQF Qualifications Assessment:*** NQF Level 9 or above =15; NQF Level 8 =12; NQF Level 7 =9; below NQF Level 7 =0. This is Certificates and SAQA equivalence where relevant.	**15**
2.4.	**Railway Operations Specialist Experience (Experience in railway rules/standard/regulatory review or implementation also in in line with clause 6.4).** The CV will be used for evaluation of each of the key personnel for this section (must be submitted by the Bidder)	• 10 years or more = 10 points • Greater or equal to 5 years but less than 10 years = 8 points • Greater or equal to 2 years but less than 5 years = 6 points • Greater or equal to 1 year but less than 2 years = 4 points • Less than 1 year = 0 points	**10**

3.	**APPROACH TO WORK** **Demonstrable capacity to deliver in response to the project scope (Max 30 points)**		
3.1.	**Review methodology (Max 15 points)** (Comprehensive Methodology that highlights techniques that will be employed for the project, this must include the approach and alignment to best practice)	**a)** Well defined approach methodology aligned with project plan and project deliverables = **15 points** **b)** Moderately defined approach methodology aligned with project plan and project deliverables = **10 points** **c)** Poorly defined approach methodology = **05 points** **d)** No approach methodology = **0 points**	**15**
3.2.	**Project Implementation Plan (Max 15 points)** Project Deliverables must be aligned scope, timelines and cost and the applicable Project Plan to also covering management of the scope with milestones/phases and timelines.	• Well defined Project Plan with milestones and timelines aligned with project timelines = 15 points • Moderately defined Project Plan with milestones and timelines = 10 points • Poorly defined Project Plan = 5 points	**15**

		• No project plan = 0 points.	
	TOTAL		**100**

Only bidders that scored a minimum of **70 points** of the total points at the functionality phase will proceed to price and specific goal evaluation.

Failure to attain the set minimum threshold will result in a disqualification.

9. Evaluation 80/20 Preference Point System

9.1. The price quotations will be evaluated in accordance with the pre-scripts of the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act (PPPFA) and its regulations, in particular Preference Procurement Regulation 2022 which stipulate **80/20 preference point system for acquisition of goods or services with Rand value equal to or below R50 million (inclusive of all applicable tax).**

9.2. **A maximum of 80 points for price and 20 points for the specific goal specified on the request for quotation may be awarded to a Service Provider.**

9.3. **Points for the specific goal will be awarded as specified on the table below:**

NO	SPECIFIC GOALS	PREFERENCE POINT (OUT OF 20)	PROOF OF CLAIM
1	An Exempt Micro Enterprises (EME) or	10	• Copy of the identity document of the owner(s)

	Qualifying Small Enterprise (QSE) which is ***at least 51% owned by black people***		• A valid SANAS accredited BBBEE certificate or a valid BBEEE sworn affidavit (whichever is applicable) • Central Supplier Database (CSD) report • Valid company registration documentation that are issued by Companies & Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC)
2	An Exempt Micro Enterprises (EME) or Qualifying Small Enterprise (QSE) which is ***at least 51% owned by black women***	5	• Copy of the identity document of the owner(s) • A valid SANAS accredited BBBEE certificate or a valid BBEEE sworn affidavit (whichever is applicable) • Central Supplier Database (CSD) report • Valid company registration documentation that are issued by Companies & Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC)
3	An Exempt Micro Enterprises (EME) or Qualifying Small Enterprise (QSE) which	3	• Copy of the identity document of the owner(s) • A valid SANAS accredited BBBEE certificate or a valid BBEEE sworn affidavit (whichever is applicable)

	is ***at least 51% owned by youth***		• Central Supplier Database (CSD) report • Valid company registration documentation that are issued by Companies & Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC)
4	An Exempt Micro Enterprises (EME) or Qualifying Small Enterprise (QSE) which is ***at least 51% owned by person(s) with disabilities***	2	• Copy of the identity document of the owner(s) • A valid SANAS accredited BBBEE certificate or a valid BBEEE sworn affidavit (whichever is applicable) • Central Supplier Database (CSD) report • Valid company registration documentation that are issued by Companies & Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) • Valid Medical Certificate • Valid South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) registration **(Where applicable)** • Valid National Council for Persons with Physical Disability in South Africa registration (NCPPDSA)

9.4. **For Points to be awarded for the specific goals the proof for the claim for such goal must be submitted.**

10. Technical Enquiries

10.1. **SCM Enquiries**

Mr. Siphamandla Mbatha

siphamandla.mbatha@rsr.org.za

10.2. **Project Manager Enquiries**

Mr. Reginald Ntshingila

reginald.ntshingila@rsr.org.za

11. Closing Date and Time for responses to this request for quotation

11.1. The request will be **closed on Monday 16 November 2026 at 10h00.** Responses may be emailed to Mr. Siphamandla Mbatha siphamandla.mbatha@rsr.org.za