

NAFLIC

National Association For Leisure Industry Certification

Standards & Related Documents Committee

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251. Miniature Railways

In the last 2 years there have been two guidance documents on the subject of Miniature Railways published by the Health and Safety Executive. Entertainment Sheet no. 12 (ETIS12), *Safe operation of miniature railways, traction engines and road vehicles*, is available as an HTML document on the HSE website (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/etis12.htm>) and paper copies may be obtained free of charge from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, SUDBURY, CO10 2WA. (Tel: 01787 881165 Fax: 01787 313995). Secondly, *Passenger-carrying miniature railways: Guidance on safe practice*, HSG216, is available at £5.95 from HSE Books. The latter replaces TN3, dating from August 1992.

Miniature railways to which these publications apply are limited to those of less than 350 mm gauge. There are some other exceptions, including crossing a public highway, which are dealt with by HSE's Railway Inspectors.

ETIS12 is aimed at model engineers operating miniature railways, miniature traction engines or miniature road vehicles as a hobby activity, either under the patronage of a club / society or as individuals. It is relevant where rides are given to the public for payment, either directly or indirectly, or, where the activity takes place in a public place. In both these cases the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSW Act) applies. ETIS12 is largely about the management of health and safety and does not deal with technical detail. It was prepared because it was considered too stringent to apply the fairgrounds and amusement parks guidance to private clubs and societies. Operators of miniature railways, miniature traction engines or miniature road vehicles needed more specific guidance. However, since HSG175 (*Fairgrounds and amusement parks: Guidance on safe practice*) contains useful information on the management of health and safety by different dutyholders when the public is involved, ETIS12 suggests that operators should obtain a copy for reference.

If an organisation has one or more employees it is suggested that it should refer to HSG175 and other relevant guidance issued, or legislation made under the HSW Act.

HSG216 is a more technical publication covering not only principles like risk assessment, but also more specific guidance on track design and layout, clearances, fencing, station design and construction, signalling, level crossings, locomotives and rolling stock, operational matters, etc. Although not as extensive as TN3, this publication contains information which might also be useful to amusement parks and inspection bodies involved with miniature railways.

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