

# Track Operatives Strategic Safety Action Statement

2009-2011



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## Glossary of terms



ALARP	Agree Limits Averting Real Progress
COSS	Create Obligatory Safety Scapegoat
CSI	Miami-based crime show
PTS	Pointless Trivia Surplus
RAIB	Read About It Belatedly
ROSS	Overpaid chatshow host
RSSB	Resistance Stifles Safety Benefits
SMIS	Secure Manslaughter Indemnity Scheme
TCOD	Try Carrying Ordinary Detonators
TOSSAS	Track Operatives Strategic Safety Action Statement
SPAD	Stupidity Pays Annual Dividends
SPIN	Statistics Promote Inaccurate Notions



**“This Track Operatives Strategic Safety Action Statement delivers an approach to safety planning in Great Britain’s railway industry which will not disturb or offend anyone.”**

# 1 executive summary

This Track Operatives Strategic Safety Action Statement (TOSSAS) delivers an approach to safety planning in Great Britain’s railway industry<sup>1</sup> which will not disturb or offend anyone.

It does not set specific targets as these can be rather challenging. Instead the plan presents a series of optimised trapezia which look quite jolly and give the impression of positive safety performance trends when the reader hangs from them upside-down.

According to Doreen in the 4th floor tea bar, track operatives’ safety performance will improve year-on-year as a result of concerted action to manipulate the statistics. Documents reporting incidents and irregularities will be lost down the back of the settee.

<sup>1</sup> The scope of this plan is the Permanent Way team which was formerly based in a cabin at the north end of Blaenau Ffestiniog’s island platform. All three members have now retired.

## executive wintery

DBHS executives naturally enter a state of suspended animation during darkness, fog and falling snow.

Over the winter, they are at risk of experiencing slight chills so are sent by private jet to hibernation podules in Bermuda and the Seychelles.

## nuclear winter

The locution ‘nuclear winter’ describes the general devastation of life, darkness and extreme cold that some scientists believe will result from the current Labour government under the leadership of Gordon Brown.



“Keys are also used by gangsters to poke people in the eye.  
Just ask my Uncle Terry.”

## 2 introduction

Hello. My name is Brian. I work as a Senior Blancmange Whisker<sup>2</sup> here at DBHS.

I joined the organisation in March after getting lost on my way to Tesco's. As one of DBHS's most experienced railway specialists, I was given the task of writing this statement.

It will be proof-read by Samantha, a Junior Blancmange Whisker, who sits at the next desk. I'm quite attracted to her. Sadly, she's not keen on beards, cardigans and halitosis.

<sup>2</sup> In 1997, Blancmange Whiskers were also made responsible for the preparation of trifles, soufflés and treacle sandwiches.

## key principles

In principle, a key is a notched and grooved implement, usually made of metal, that is turned to open or close a lock.

In reality, keys are also used by gangsters to poke people in the eye. Just ask my Uncle Terry.

A key can also be a tonal system consisting of seven tones in fixed relationship to a tonic, having a characteristic key signature and being the structural foundation of most Western music. At least it was until Val Doonican's popularity started to wane.

## padlock principles

A padlock is a detachable lock with U-shaped bar hinged at one end, designed to be passed through the staple of a hasp or a link in a chain and then snapped shut.

They are generally composed of a series of spring-loaded stacks called pin stacks. Each pin stack is composed of two pins that are stacked on top of each other.

In 2006, the Daily Mail suggested that a padlock should be fitted to Boris Johnson's mouth but the High Court ruled this to be a breach of the padlock's rights.



## developing this strategic safety action statement

The photographs in this Track Operatives Strategic Safety Action Statement were developed at Boots. The paper was bought at Staples by my Auntie Joan.

As a result of research by our Digital Sustainability Team, next year's plan will be binary coded to eliminate any need for chemical processes. Readers will be provided with a software package to translate the raw page data (ones and noughts) into Egyptian hieroglyphics.

DBHS will be recruiting eight Binary Coding Specialists to supervise this work.

## the safety planning cycle

The railway's safety planning cycle is maintained and operated by DBHS.

It was bequeathed to the organisation by Hilda Numpty who lead the Women's Institute in the Oxfordshire village of Nether Flange until 2001, when she succumbed to knitter's elbow.

The cycle is available for use on Tuesday mornings between the post-breakfast prevarication period and the cogitation fiesta.

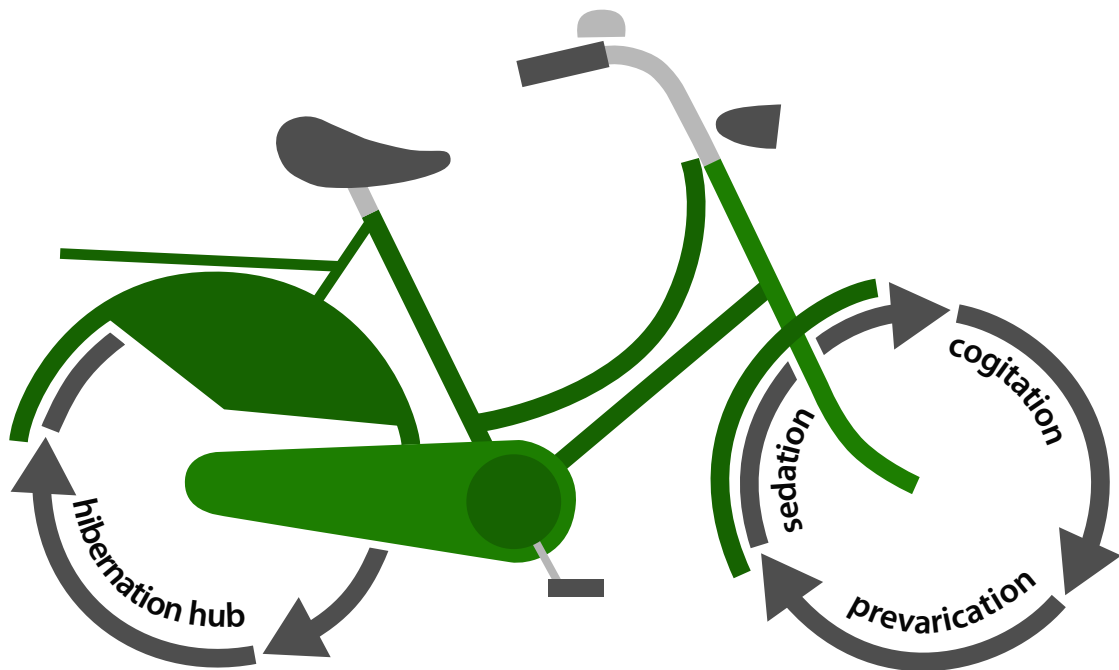


Figure 1 illustrates DBHS's safety planning cycle

## the safety planning trike

In 2007, the Health and Safety Executive investigated an incident involving a member of DBHS's Blue Sky Thinking Platoon which resulted in the individual becoming slightly out of breath whilst on the safety planning cycle.

It was concluded that stabilisers should be fitted and usage limited to 14 seconds in any two-hour period, thus eliminating any risk of over-exertion.

Unfortunately, the maintenance regime had not taken account of the need to monitor tension within the stabilisers' securing bolts. These worked loose over time, resulting in a catastrophic collapse of the cycle's superstructure during a brainstorming session.

As a result, a safety planning trike - incorporating an integral stabilisation system - has been procured and is due to be installed during DBHS's summer recess.



*Figure 2 illustrates DBHS's safety planning trike*

## the safety planning vehicle

When funds allow, it is DBHS's intention to install a safety planning vehicle within the corporate think-tank.

Although an inversely positive impact is likely to be recorded in relation to the organisation's carbon footprint, this will be offset through the recruitment of a vegetable garden and reducing each employee's daily respiration allocation by 13.2%.



*Figure 3 illustrates DBHS's safety planning vehicle*



“Techniques used include dance, mime, hypnosis and necrophilia.”

## 3 safety performance

All communication of new standards, processes and good practice is now carried out through safety performance, involving one or more artistes producing a physical interpretation of the key points on stage to an audience arranged by the relevant employer.

Techniques used include dance, mime, hypnosis and necrophilia.

This approach was pioneered by DBHS in response to the criticism which followed the adoption of Pigeon English as the organisation's preferred language for written publications.

## actors and actresses

DBHS sponsors the Evergreen School of Performing Arts, based at the Palace of Westminster. Here, prospective contributors to the safety performance programme can rehearse in front of a near-live audience of Lords and civil servants.

Each year, as experienced members of the safety performance troupe retire to senior management roles, upwards of two dozen trainee artistes undergo rigorous aptitude appraisals before filling vacated positions.

These include the ability to breathe unaided, whistle in the wind and remain dormant for long periods during committee meetings.

Shamelessness, indifference and ignorance are amongst the required character traits. Many successful candidates have media studies qualifications.

## characters

The DHBS safety performance programme has developed a number of generic characters which are deployed, as appropriate, to specific audience types.

Presentations for track operatives usually involve Doug 'the shovel', Turbulent Terry, Admiral the one-eyed lookout and a hydraulic pump unit played by Digby Furnival, former star of Emmerdale Farm.

'Virtual Victor' is a holographic safety professional who is married to an Excel spreadsheet. He spends alternate Thursdays pouring Black Treacle into point motors.

During 2009, DBHS will roll-out an online safety performance tool incorporating five more two-dimensional rules specialists as well as 'Shambles', a human resources package.



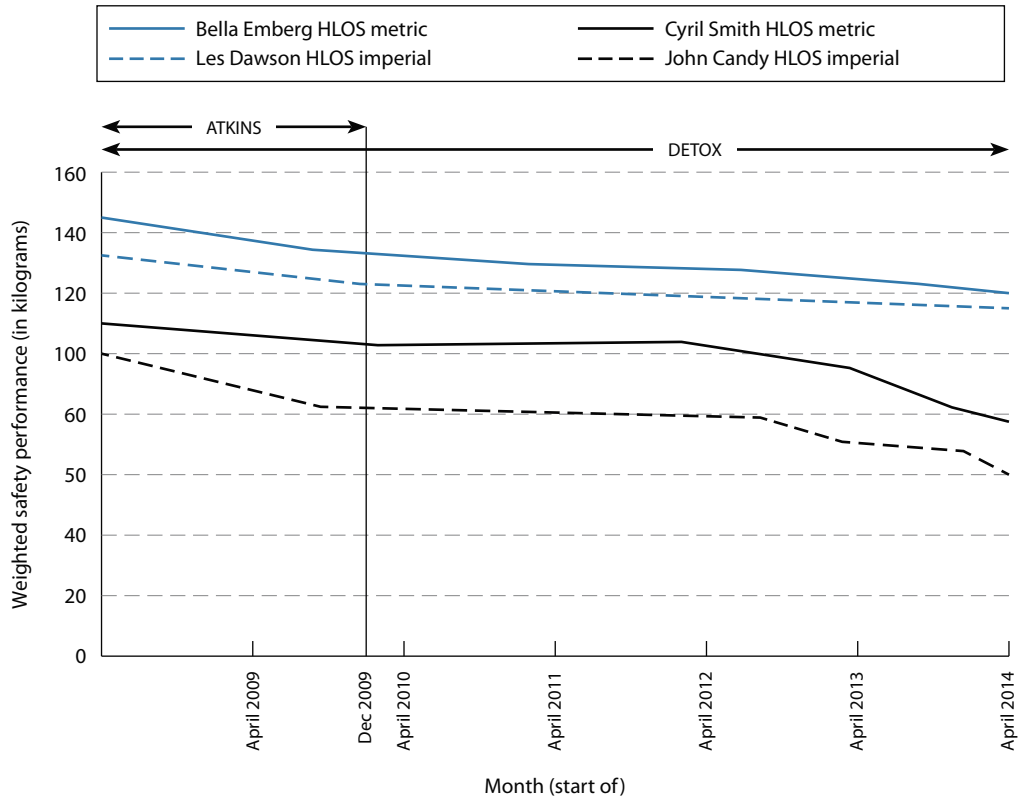
*Figure 4 illustrates 'Virtual Victor' (third from left) - the faceless, holographic safety professional. In 2009, he will be joined by Redundant Ralph, Bob the beancounter, 'sign here' Sid, Lawrence Lovelace - the best-laid planner and Adolf, head of recruitment.*

## theatres

The safety performance team rehearses at London's Dodecahedron Theatre alongside DBHS's safety risk model.

During periods of peak activity, additional facilities are available at the Bamboo Palace Theatre, Kingston, Jamaica.

## Predicting weighted safety performance



(All figures based on a moist digit being raised into the air and use of a Northern Rock projection tool)



**“This breakdown has been evaluated by both the AA and Green Flag.”**

# 4

## key risk areas

The diagrams on the following pages illustrate the relative risk of two key areas: track operatives’ managers and track operatives.

This breakdown has been evaluated by both the AA and Green Flag, and is illustrated in the pie chart below.

It is based upon the mathematical computations of DBHS’s safety risk model (SRMv5.0), codenamed Norris.

### **Track operatives’ managers**

- very high risk

### **Track operatives**

- low risk



## trapezia

The 2007-09 TOSSAS made a commitment for a revolutionary approach to providing quantitative trapezia for each of the key risk areas. This plan represents the first step towards quantification, providing quantitative trapezia for two key risk areas.



*Figure 5 illustrates one of DBHS's trapezia artists*

The trapezia have been drawn freehand and visualised by aggregating future safety benefits projected by dutyholders and the number of 'Dad's Army' repeats during summer weekends on UKTV Gold. On this basis, any single fatality is deemed to be blue; 10 major injuries will stretch the local A&E department; 200 minor injuries are typical of a Friday night in Barnsley.

These sectors were plotted to form a colour-coded quadrilateral, the vectors of which were then randomly adjusted as if viewed in four dimensions under the influence of hallucinogenic drugs.

## Key risk area

## Track operatives' managers

### Risk information

Track operatives' managers are exposed to similar risks as those experienced by sheep (during transfer between fields) and David Icke (during travel to his home planet).

There are additional hazards which make railway safety management more dangerous; these include over-excitement when attending Rail Sustainability Masterclasses, the onset of rigamortis during Powerpoint presentations, hypertension as a result of being asked to communicate with a track operative, and spinal injuries when carrying home the cheque for their annual bonus.

There has been a significantly decreasing trend in minor injuries amongst track operatives' managers since the temperature of beverages dispensed by the 6th floor drinks machine was reduced by 25°C.

## Track operatives' managers

### Actions

Examples of key initiatives to improve track operatives' managers safety include:

- removal of all decision-making responsibilities
- procurement of less heavy pens
- provision of massage facilities at all desks
- intravenous supply of tea and coffee
- wearing of stab-vests during meetings with union officials

### Trapezia





## Key risk area

## Track operatives

### Risk information

Track operatives are exposed to similar risks as those experienced by woolly mammoths (shortly before extinction) and Paris Hilton (during production of her bathing video).

There are other mitigating factors which make on-track work far less hazardous; these include the virtual management of safety using the 'hope-deny-pretend' methodology, network-wide roll-out of trackside ballast dumps, universal adoption of the term 'green zone' to describe all safe systems of work, and the outsourcing of on-track plant maintenance to Zimbabwean Railways.

There has been a significantly decreasing trend in the reporting of fatalities involving track operatives since it was stipulated that such reports could only be lodged by the individual directly affected.

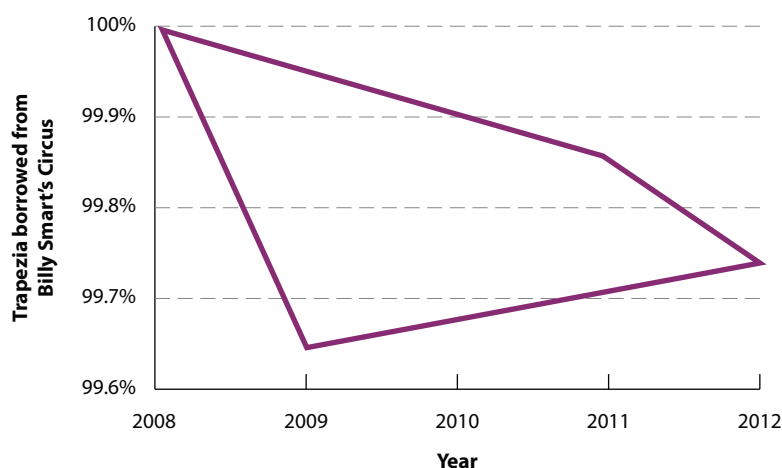
## Track operatives

### Actions

Examples of key initiatives to improve track operatives safety include:

- extending Bootlace Securing Form from eight to 17 pages
- introduction of new standard on hair and fingernail growth
- adoption of low-visibility clothing to prevent eye strain
- rewriting of Rule Book by John Prescott
- commissioning research into the optimum girth of a sausage

### Trapezia





**“To depress any appetite for change, a deterrent process known as ‘safety decision making’ has been implemented.”**

## 5 safety decision making

Change can result in the importation of new, additional risks. The railway industry has therefore decided that the status quo must be maintained at all costs.

For example, the creation of safe cess walkways alongside railway lines might divert manpower from other duties, such as brochure design and filing. Uncontrolled documents can fall from high shelves, pose a fire risk and cause dangerous backlogs within audit protocols.

To depress any appetite for change, a deterrent process known as ‘safety decision making’ has been implemented. This demands that, for any issue, the pros and cons of every conceivable eventuality are explored by human factors gurus, rocket scientists and Colin from HR.

The relevant Subject Committee then reviews the information at its first available meeting. These are held biennially. Motions can be tabled by any member if permission is granted by the Chairperson. If there are too many motions on the table, please use the nearest toilet.

## decision support

Before any change proposal can be considered, it must be carved in granite and displayed in the foyer alongside the relevant, existing rule or procedure, known as the ‘tablet of stone’. These are held in position by scaffolding, referred to as ‘decision support’.

## surgical support

If a safety practitioner infiltrates a Subject Committee, the Chairperson can arrange for them to be surgically removed with a cotton-wool scalpel and the meeting room deep cleaned thereafter.

THIS PAGE IS A TRIBUTE TO

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**B L A N K**

**Produced by Death by Health and Safety  
on behalf of  
Emperor's New Clothes PLC**

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