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8.3.4.1. Introduction.

The STR require that all its staff and volunteers are fit to undertake the work that they do whilst at the railway especially where the operation of some fixed and mobile work equipment is involved in the role eg Fork Lift Operator, Welding Equipment Operator.


Where this work involves Safety Critical Roles eg Locomotive Driver, Fireman, legislation requires that the railway verifies the health status of those involved by using external medical examination on a regular basis.

All STR staff and volunteers are required to declare to the railway any prescription medicines they are taking and that these medicines will not impair their performance whilst working at the railway.

8.3.4.2 Arrangements.

8.3.4.2.1 Self Declaration Medical Assessment Form.

- All new STR members of staff and volunteers must complete the STR Self Declaration Medical Assessment Form prior to commencing work anywhere on the railway.
- The completed form must include details of any prescribed drugs being taken regularly.
- If during the validity of the Medical Assessment (5 years for a person up to 70 years of age and 3 years for a person of 70 years and over) there is any deterioration in the health of the staff member or volunteer that may affect their ability to carry out their role safely this must be advised to the STRPS Chair of Trustees.
- Any person who is receiving treatment involving prescription drugs (on an occasional basis, not routine medication already advised) must ascertain from the prescribing doctor that the drugs prescribed will not adversely affect their ability to undertake their duties on the railway by impairing performance or judgement. If they are advised that the medication in question may affect their ability to carry out their role safely they must advise the Chair of the STRPS Trustees before undertaking any further work or period of duty.

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8.3.4.2.2 Safety Critical Role Medical Examination Requirements.

All STR staff & volunteers undertaking safety critical roles (on the South Tynedale Railway this is steam, diesel and battery electric drivers and firemen) are required to undertake and pass a medical examination undertaken by a qualified medical practitioner which confirms their fitness to undertake their role on the following frequency:

- Up to 70 years of age – Every 5 years
- Over 70 years of age – Every 3 years

The medical report form for safety critical personnel is in two parts. The first part is the full medical report, and the second part is the certificate of fitness to undertake safety critical roles. The medical practitioner will complete the full report and the certificate. The driver/fireman will place the full report in a sealed envelope and hand it to the Chair of Trustees together with the certificate which will not be sealed.

If the certificate verifies fitness to undertake safety critical roles the certificate and the sealed report will be filed by the Chair.


If the certificate indicates the individual is not fit to undertake safety critical roles the individual may, if they wish, challenge the report and discuss it with the Chair.

At this stage the Chair may need, with the permission of the individual, to unseal the full medical report and/or seek further medical advice on whether the individual is fit to undertake safety critical roles.

When any STR staff member or volunteer with a safety critical role experiences a significant change in health status in between medical examinations they must advise the Chair of Trustees of this event, and if it is deemed necessary, undergo and pass a further medical examination to enable them to continue in their role.

STR staff & volunteers holding a valid UK driving licence are deemed to have provided evidence of meeting these STR minimum eyesight requirements to undertake an operational role. – STR will hold a copy of their current valid driving licence.

Additionally, all staff & volunteers seeking approval for a Safety Critical role will be asked when completing their Self Declaration Medical Assessment Form if they can distinguish between the colours red and green to determine if they can perform a role where it is essential to distinguish between the 2 colours.

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8.3.4.3 Confidentiality of Health Records.

All completed Self Declaration Medical Assessment Forms are held in a secure area with access limited to the Chair of the STRPS Trustees and any qualified medical practitioner from whom the Chair of Trustees may need to seek advice.

8.3.4.4 Further development of this policy.

The STRPS Trustees may modify this policy at any time in the future in accordance with any legislative requirements or best practice within the transport sector.