

Building Rail's Digital Capability

Project i-TRACE



Background

Project i-TRACE, formerly known as *Parts and Components Identification in Rail* is on track for implementation by 1 January 2019.

Rail operators source materials from a variety of suppliers, both local and international. Using a common, standards-based approach for the identification and marking of materials has proven to significantly reduce costs in industries such as Food and Grocery, Retail and Healthcare.

Since January 2015, the Australasian Rail Association (ARA) has been driving an industry initiative in partnership with GS1 Australia (global standards organisation) to address some common problems relating to inventory management and MRO processes. In consultation with the support of major operators, suppliers and the ARA Board, the target date for implementation has been set for **1st January 2019**.

Why industry needs to act

The rail industry in Australia has a massive challenge to improve safety, reliability and quality. Standardising the way materials are identified, barcoded and tagged will bring industry wide efficiencies by setting the foundation for automation. This includes:

- Reduced inventory write-offs and waste; optimal inventory management
- Improved maintenance and repair operations
- Improved traceability and warranty management, fundamental for lifecycle tracking
- Reduced costs through fewer transaction errors and better quality data
- Elimination of non-value added tasks by enabling automation of manual processes.

Why you need to implement GS1 standards

For suppliers, the adoption of GS1 standards will provide your business with the certainty required to invest in automatic data capture technologies, knowing you are implementing a standard the whole industry will accept and utilise.

For asset owners, global standards will be a critical enabler to effective asset management and the implementation of ISO 55000, supporting your AMS with improved data quality. This Australian initiative is aligned with a parallel EU program with rail operators and network managers, including Deutsche Bahn, SBB, Network Rail and SNCF, as well as multinational equipment manufacturers – Siemens, Alstom and Knorr-Bremse.

Next steps

1. Find out more about the initiative

Download an [overview of the project](#)
Download [Rail Implementation Guideline](#)

2. Find out more

The Australasian Railway Association (ARA)
<https://ara.net.au/>

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