

The National Electronic Sectional Appendix

Update 1 – July 2006

Introduction

Later this year Network Rail will reissue each of its seven Sectional Appendices, a number of which have not been amended since 2003.

For the first time the data used to generate them will be held centrally in a national database. Given this approach and the sophistication of that database Network Rail are able to compile a national electronic Sectional Appendix (NESA) accessible via its own intranet or via the internet.

This fully searchable National Appendix (structured around current Route boundaries) provides an alternative means of accessing data which until now has only been available in hard copy.

The creation of this electronic Appendix though does not mean the demise of the traditional hard copy Appendices for those that still require them in that format.

This short leaflet is intended to give you a brief overview of the NESA and provide details of who to contact for further information.

What is NESA?

The NESA will allow Network Rail for the first time to produce Sectional Appendices that have a consistent look and feel throughout no matter which Route they are produced for.

Of greater significance though is that each Route Appendix will be electronically linked to its geographical neighbours allowing

seamless access to a National Appendix on line.

By managing the data in this way the individual Route Appendices and the National Appendix become fully searchable. For example the search engine will allow searches by alpha/numeric strings or map navigation. It will then generate data to meet the specific requirements of the individual performing the search. This may range from every item associated with a location or just the relevant page of the table A diagram.

Why is Network Rail doing this?

The biggest driver behind this initiative is the desire to make safety data contained in Sectional Appendices more accessible to those who need it within the industry.

Modern computerised data storage and management techniques together with the advent of an integrated Operations Publications team have now made this possible.



Figure 1



Figure 2



What benefits will the NESAs bring?

Against the existing production and delivery arrangements for Sectional Appendices some of the main perceived benefits are:

- documents published with a common look and feel for the whole of the network
- “real” time access (via the internet) to the changes being made to the infrastructure or its operational capability
- easier access to safety critical data
- the ability to create “personalised” Appendices
- a base upon which to build through time additional functionality such as the overlaying of gradient data on table A diagrams

What else should I know at this time?

- the new system that generates both the hard copy and Electronic Sectional Appendices has been tested extensively and a proof of concept carried out on Anglia Route to ensure it meets industry needs
- the layout of the Appendices is being changed slightly to allow an element of continuity to flow through them. It should be noted that this in no way impacts upon their content or current physical structure
- the content of the of the Appendices will not change as a result of this initiative
- hard copies of Sectional Appendices will continue to be printed as part of this initiative although the full benefits of the NESAs are only realised in its electronic format



Figure 3

When will it happen?

The NESAs will go live as hard copy Route Sectional Appendices are reissued.

The timescale for this is:

- August 2006 – Anglia and Western
- October 2006 – London North Western (both North and South publications)
- December 2006 – London North Eastern, Scotland, Kent, Sussex and Wessex

How can I find out more?

If you want to find out more about any aspect of the NESAs initiative or discuss particular issues associated with it please feel free to contact the Project Manager or the Publications and Document Control Manager.

Who to contact

The Project Manager for the NESAs project is Tim Lulham who can be contacted via:

Email: tim.lulham@networkrail.co.uk

Phone: 020 7830 5866

Ian Stevens is the Publications and Document Control Manager who can be contacted via:

Email: ian.stevens@networkrail.co.uk

Phone: 020 7557 8097

Subscribing to the NESAs web site

From 7 August 2006, the NESAs web site will be accessible to all Network Rail users with guidance being provided on Connect for its use. Users outside of Network Rail with internet access are invited to subscribe to NESAs by sending an email to nesa@networkrail.co.uk with the following information:

- your name
- your company name
- your preferred username
- your work email address

Internet access to the NESAs web site will initially be free leading to a subscription service being launched in 2007.

