

SAFETY AND RELIABILITY SOCIETY

Lunchtime Webinar



Risk Acceptance in critical sectors: a Wicked problem*

George Bearfield PhD CEng FIET FSaRS

Visiting Professor of Railway System Safety, University of Huddersfield

Friday 20th September 2019, 1300 to 1400

The webinar will outline the problem of aligning expectations and requirements between government and private companies in safety critical sectors. The wicked problem is that risk acceptance criteria are fundamental but are viewed differently depending on who is considering them, and when in the lifecycle of a project or decision they are considering them. The speaker will contrast experiences in the Rail, Aviation and Nuclear sectors.

It will describe key risk acceptance concepts and explain why it is a problem that these are only really understood in detail by practitioners given their huge significance to political decisions, major investment and the safety of and services provided to the public at large.

The presentation will last around 35 minutes followed by a 20 minute Q&A session. To register for the Webinar please click here:

<https://sars.clickmeeting.com/risk-acceptance-in-critical-sectors-a-wicked-problem>

A bit about our speaker: George Bearfield is Visiting Professor of Railway System Safety at the University of Huddersfield's Institute of Rail Research, the UKRINN's centre of excellence for Rolling Stock research. He is also Safety Director within Rock Rail, the rolling stock leasing and asset management company, with responsibility for all aspects of its Safety Management Systems including safety assurance responsibilities for the fleets under its management. George is also an independent expert advisor to the board safety subcommittee of the UK air traffic control body National Air Traffic Services (NATS).

George has over 20 years of experience in the health and safety arena. In his previous role as Director of System Safety and Health at the Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB), he was responsible for RSSB's work to support the rail industry in all aspects of its health and safety management and assurance processes and capabilities.

*A wicked problem is a problem that is difficult or impossible to solve because of incomplete, contradictory, and changing requirements that are often difficult to recognize.