



TITLE OF PAPER: Safety Culture in the Swedish Railway Industry

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SUMMARY OF PAPER

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My paper will be addressing cultural safety aspects in the ever changing rail industry worldwide. The core of the paper will evolve on the role of the players i.e. the regulatory bodies, the independent accident investigators, the railway undertakers and so forth. The cultural safety aspects emerges from within the industry itself. But there are more to it than the internal driving forces. In fact the society at large has an even greater impact on the railway safety culture. The role of the railway industry has been changing for the last 50 years. Competition from other transport modes has increased dramatically. The rail industry has changed from being one of the the primary drivers for industrialisation into a world of competing transport modes. We have moved away from a rail industry intertwined with the development of national manufacturers, the state and the military defense. Despite the change we can still se traces of the safety culture that used to exist in the good old days. We in the railway industry are attached to prescriptive rules and regulations. Modern leadership focus on objectives rather than rules. There is obviously a culture clash between modern management and the old prescriptive way as the rail industry moves into the new transport market focused on fierce competition. The ever changing conditions for rail services has lead to new roles internally and - in some cases - to what is known as the fragmented rail industry. In the good old days we were truly governed by discipline and other values associated with military leadership principles. We did it according to the rule book. What is it that will pull the industry together, today and in the future? Maybe it is not necessary share the same values any more. The University of Linkoping in Sweden launched a study about shared values amongst people with different tasks within the rail industry. I will tell you about what the researcher found out. Also, I will present some other cases that relates to cultural changes and co-operation.