

Visitors to model engineering societies

Due to a lack of clarity in the 7 ¼ gauge community, Walker Midgely issued a statement on 24 May 2022 to address this issue.

Extract.

Visitors to societies fall into two main categories: -

- those who take part in the operation of the society, for example by running a locomotive or assisting in the operations – a ‘participating visitor’.*
- those who visit as members of the general public, for example on public open days, and take no part in the running of the Society. They may take rides on the trains either fare paying or by donation or gratuitously - a ‘general visitor’.*

...

...Those who visit in order to take part in the operation of the society by running a locomotive, or assisting in the operations, (participating visitor) fall into a different category. They, by their actions, are in a position to influence the safe running of the railway and the safe running of the society activities and therefore the host society must check that the participating visitor has the appropriate public liability insurance in place. If the participating visitor proposes to run a steam powered model the host society must also check that the boiler has a current boiler certificate...

... Where a participating visitor cannot provide evidence of public liability insurance the host society has the option of making the participating visitor a ‘Day Member’ which will mean that the participating visitor is no longer a participating visitor but is a member and hence has public liability cover under the host society policy. In order to be a Day Member, the participating visitor does not have to be a member of another model engineering society affiliated to Southern Federation, Northern Association or 7¼” Gauge Society, or even be a model engineer – just someone you wish to be a Day Member. Some societies choose to restrict day membership to participating visitors from other societies of the same Federation or Association that the society is affiliated to, that is a matter for the society to decide...

... It is recommended that any participating visitor operating a model, is given a briefing on the safety measures and any Bye Laws of the host society pertinent to the model being operated.