



Mineral Products Association and Rail Freight Group

Why is Rail Freight vital for Housing and Construction?

Rail freight and the construction industry

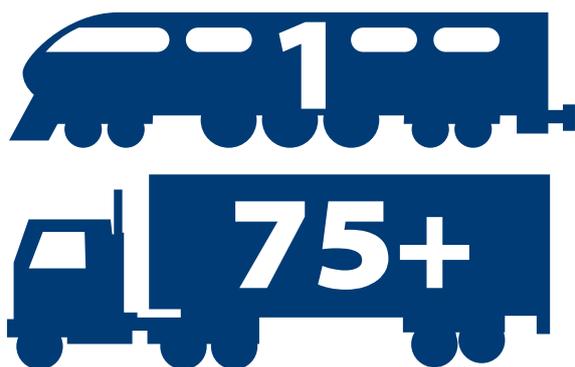


Government has set out its ambitions to deliver new strategic infrastructure and to accelerate housebuilding, in order to support economic growth for the nation.

Meeting these targets requires a highly productive and efficient supply chain for construction materials, which must not only deliver in a cost effective and timely manner, but also work to minimise adverse environmental and social impacts. With ever more congested roads and pressure on urban space and built environment, rail freight is providing a vital part of the solution to these demands.



One train can carry enough material to build 30 houses



A single train can replace 75 or more lorry journeys



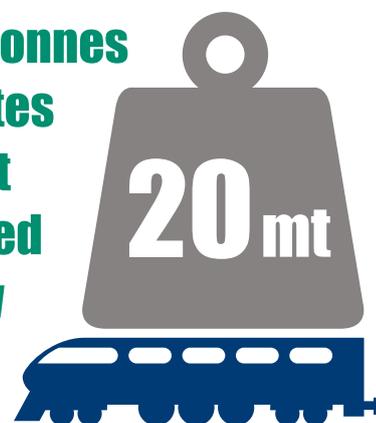
CO₂ emissions per tonne of material delivered by rail are 76% lower than by road*

*www.raildeliverygroup.com/files/Publications/2015-02_freight_britain.pdf



40% of aggregates used in London are delivered by rail

20 million tonnes of aggregates and cement are delivered annually by rail



“ Rail freight is a vital part of our national economy ”

Rail Minister Paul Maynard MP in the Sept 2016 Rail Freight Strategy



Over the last decade the construction industry has increased its use of rail freight significantly.



Growth in rail freight has been supported by investment from construction materials companies and rail freight operators in new, higher capacity rail wagons, more powerful locomotives and modern terminals.

Government investment in the rail network has also provided more

network capacity for rail freight and enabled longer, more efficient trains to run.

However there are emerging challenges which risk undermining this success and restricting future supply:

- Industry railheads are at risk from a lack of protection in the planning system and inappropriate adjacent development
- Pressure for more passenger services makes it harder to find space on the network for extra freight trains
- Uncertainties about future investment in the rail network which will be necessary to support more rail freight
- Potential increases in track access charges for rail freight

What does the Rail Freight industry need to support future construction activity?

In order to deliver the benefits which rail freight can bring to construction and society at large we need the right policy conditions, including:

- Better protection in the planning system for existing and potential railheads and wharves and the encouragement of new rail freight infrastructure where appropriate. Ensuring that adjacent development to railheads and wharves does not constrain freight activities
- Increase recognition and understanding that rail freight is a key supply source of construction materials
- Ensure that rail freight can co-exist with passenger trains on the network going forward
- Make rail freight a preferred option for major infrastructure projects
- Ensure a stable framework for network track charges and access that encourages growth and investment

A Commitment to the Future

The MPA (Mineral Products Association) and RFG (Rail Freight Group) have made a commitment to work together to:

- Increase the use of rail freight for construction materials
- Continue to improve performance
- Increase efficiency and optimise rail network capacity

The MPA is the trade association for the aggregates, asphalt, cement, concrete, dimension stone, lime, mortar and silica sand industries.

The Rail Freight Group is the leading representative body for rail freight in the UK, with a membership which includes rail freight companies, ports, terminal operators, major shippers, logistics companies, property developers, equipment suppliers and support services. RFG works to promote rail freight in a variety of environments, helping to highlight the benefits of using rail freight and to communicate the sector's successes.

For further information on any of these issues, please contact the MPA and RFG on the email/telephone number shown below.



For further MPA information visit
www.mineralproducts.org

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