



Rail Industry Safety Notice



RISN No. 26

ROLLING STOCK UNDERFRAME MOUNTED EQUIPMENT

Background

The Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator (ITSRR) requests that rail transport operators in NSW read the attached safety alert issued by Public Transport Safety Victoria in relation to an incident in Victoria. ITSRR also brings your attention to a rail incident in the UK on 8 September 1995 (refer to the HM Railway Inspectorate internal report on a fire on the 18:30 Paddington to Swansea train near Maidenhead - <http://www.railwaysarchive.co.uk/docSummary.php?docID=401>).

Action

ITSRR suggests that operators review this alert and assess the information and risks described. Operators are to ensure that any similar risks are being managed. Consideration should be given to any units of motive power that have underslung mounted fuel tanks.

Len Neist
Chief Executive

Safety Alert

NOTICE TO ACCREDITED RAIL OPERATORS

Subject

Rolling Stock Underframe Equipment Mountings

Issue

Public Transport Safety Victoria (PTSV) was notified of an incident on 11 May 2009 in which one end of the fuel tank of an N Class Locomotive hauling a Geelong-bound passenger train fell away from the underframe. Thirty litres of diesel oil spilled from the tank onto the track. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade and Environment Protection Authority responded to the incident.

Inspection by PTSV of the underframe and fuel tank of the locomotive involved in this incident showed that all six of the mounting bolts used to secure the fuel tank at one end had fallen out, allowing this end of the fuel tank to fall away from the underframe. Some degree of cracking was evident in the fuel tank mounting brackets on the locomotive.

The mounting bolts used to secure the fuel tank were secured using nyloc nuts, which appeared to have been subject to prolonged fuel and dirt exposure.

It was also noted that the configuration of the mounting brackets and the confined space under the locomotive made access to inspect and maintain the nuts and bolts difficult.

Subsequent inspection of the N Class Locomotive fleet has found loose bolts and cracking on other vehicles.

It is understood that G Class Locomotives produced by the same rolling stock manufacturer at approximately the same time as the N Class Locomotives have a similar mounting arrangement for the fuel tanks.

This safety alert has been issued as a reminder to the providers and operators of rolling stock of the importance of ongoing inspection and maintenance of underframe equipment mountings, in order to ensure their integrity for the life of the vehicle. It is suggested that rolling stock inspection and maintenance regimes include underframe equipment mountings, and the inspection and maintenance procedures for underframe equipment mountings take into account the age and duty cycle of the rolling stock, operating conditions, the weight and configuration of the equipment, the type of mountings and the history of any failures.

In order to ensure compliance with relevant safety duties under the *Rail Safety Act 2006 (Vic)*, the following should be undertaken:

- Providers and operators of rolling stock should note this advice and take appropriate action.

For further information in Victoria, contact Andrew Doery, Engineer Mechanical Systems on (03) 9655 6132.

THIS ADVICE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Approved:



CHRIS McKEOWN
General Manager, Safety Systems

Date:

25 May 2009