



SUBJECT: SAFETY ALERT TO ALL RAIL FREIGHT ROLLING STOCK OPERATORS AND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGERS

The following information is provided in the interest of improving rail operational safety.

BACKGROUND

On 21st November 2004, a freight train derailed in the Adelaide Hills near Glenalta in the Adelaide metropolitan area. The train was travelling from Melbourne to Perth on the Defined Interstate Rail Network (DIRN). A total of 10 container platforms on multi-platform wagons were derailed, resulting in significant damage to rolling stock and publicly accessible infrastructure on both the DIRN and the adjacent metropolitan passenger rail network. Five derailed platforms obstructed the metropolitan passenger line and four came to rest down an embankment in private residential properties. Significant damage was caused to road and pedestrian crossings and a metropolitan passenger station platform.

While no person was injured, the potential for injury was high.

INVESTIGATION

A safety investigation has now been completed by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) and includes safety recommendations to improve railway operational safety. Although these actions have been directed to the agencies best placed to action the particular safety enhancements, the findings of the investigation may be relevant to other rail organisations.

The full report is available on the ATSB website: www.atsb.gov.au

RECOMMENDATION

That all rolling stock operators and rail infrastructure managers consider the findings and recommendations of the report in relation to their own activities.

This notice is effective from:

02 / February / 2006

Approved:

Jon Steele
Administering Authority

Date: 2/2/2006