



MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

RAIL INDUSTRY SAFETY NOTICE

30 December 2003

SAFETY NOTICE No. 5

PRECAUTIONARY ADVICE - TIMKEN (6 x 11) E CLASS PACKAGE UNIT BEARING SEAL FAILURE

Background:

Pacific National has detected a number of Timken E class package unit bearings (PUB) suffering from seal failure in their Western Australian, Victorian and Queensland operations. Failure of this seal may result in excessive grease leakage and may expose the bearing to ingress of water and foreign bodies that can lead to premature bearing failure.

The suspect bearings were distributed directly by Timken or through their agent Gemco in Western Australia. Originally it was thought that these bearings were confined to Western Australia, however, latest information suggests that 459 bearings in a distinct set of serial numbers may have been distributed Australia wide. The bearings involved are Timken product no. HM 129848 90372 and are confined to a four day production run in May 2003. Timken Australia has provided a list of bearing serial numbers that may be affected (see the attached of suspect bearing numbers).

Action:

Rail operators and maintainers are asked to review the attached list of bearing serial numbers with the view to identify if any of these bearings are currently operating in their fleet. Operators and maintainers with bearings listed in this notice are asked to ensure appropriate action is taken to minimise the risk of in-service bearing failure. The bearing manufacturer (Timken) has recommended that if any of the suspect bearings are found they are to be removed from service.

For further information please contact myself on (02) 8263-7100 or Kevin Kitchen, Senior Transport Safety Officer on telephone (02) 8263-7103.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Colin Holmes'.

Colin Holmes
A/Executive-Director
Transport Safety & Rail Safety Regulation