



INDEPENDENT
TRANSPORT
SAFETY AND
RELIABILITY
REGULATOR

RAIL INDUSTRY SAFETY NOTICE

13 February 2004

RISN No. 7

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

Background:

On 30 December 2003, this office advised the rail industry of problems associated with E Class Package Unit Bearings (PUB) supplied by Timken.

It appears the problem is wider spread than first reported with now approximately 4000 E Class PUB being affected. Timken believes there is probably an issue with improper seal installation on some of its Class E 'AP' bearings. It is possible, even probable, that this problem is related to the incidents of seals 'walking out' from bearings in freight applications, which we understand have been found at inspection and number in excess of thirty cases.

The problem seems to be that some seals were not installed to proper depth in the counterbore, and, that in some of those cases, the locking bead did not engage adequately with the groove in the counterbore. 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.

Action:

Representatives from Timken Australia, United Goninan Maintrain and ITSRR will be meeting on Thursday 19th February 2004 to discuss the matter further with a view to develop a strategy to minimise the risk to the rail industry and to remove the suspect bearings from service. This office will provide the other State Regulators and stakeholders with an update at the earliest.

Further Information:

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 that reads "Kent Donaldson".

Kent Donaldson
Executive Director,
Transport Safety Regulation