



INDEPENDENT
TRANSPORT
SAFETY AND
RELIABILITY
REGULATOR

RAIL INDUSTRY SAFETY NOTICE

20 January 2005

RISN No. 8

Hi-Rail Safety – Inspection, Maintenance and Fitness for Purpose

Background:

On the 7th of September 2004 an incident occurred between Leigh Creek and Port Augusta on the South Australian rail network involving the derailment of a Hirail vehicle and the subsequent fatality of the Hirail operator.

Following the incident an investigation was conducted which found that deficiencies in the installation, maintenance and testing of the Hirail vehicle equipment existed.

The primary factors identified contributing to the incident included:

- Installation of only standard road vehicle suspension.
- Unsuitable road tire inflations for rail mode operation
- Overloading of the vehicle above recommended Hirail capacity
- Inadequate inspection, maintenance and testing of vehicles prior to rail mode use to ensure 'fitness for purpose'. This included inadequate rail wheel suspension arm inspection, maintenance and calibration procedures.

Action:

All Hirail operators and maintainers are asked to ensure the 'fitness for purpose' of Hirail vehicles for operation in the rail mode. This will require the regular certification and inspection of vehicles to the appropriate maintenance standards to ensure the safe operation, detection and timely rectification of defects. Accordingly, the following aspects need to be considered:-

- ✓ Rail guidance mechanisms are fully operative
- ✓ Adherence to the maximum permissible vehicle speeds
- ✓ Compliance with the specified braking performance
- ✓ Compliance with the manufacturer's recommendations regarding the weight and distribution of the load

Date: 20 January, 2005

For further information contact: Grant Holliday

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Number: 05/000081



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In addition, rail operators are also reminded of the need to provide effective communication systems particularly in remote locations and ensure occupants are properly restrained at all times during transit.

Further Information:

For further information please contact Grant Holliday, Manager Accreditation and Compliance on telephone (02) 8263-7182.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kent Donaldson".

20/01/05

Kent Donaldson
Executive Director
Transport Safety Regulation