



Tasmania

Department of Infrastructure,  
Energy & Resources

# RAIL SAFETY NOTICE

<b>Date of Issue:</b> 13 July 2004	<b>Notice No.:</b> RSN 2004 - 02
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<b>Subject: Locomotive Underframe Bolster Cracking</b>
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<b>Advice To: Owners and Operators of Diesel Locomotives</b>
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**Issue:**

West Coast Railway and Freight Australia have detected a number of locomotives with substantial cracks in the underframe bolster assembly on older locomotives. The classes are Victorian B and S Class manufactured by Clyde Engineering.

The underframes on these and later class locomotives built by Clyde Engineering are known to have an inherent tendency to develop cracking in and around the transverse bolsters and draft box assemblies.

Under Victorian Railway/Public Transport Corporation ownership at major overhaul or at rebuild the underframes were crack detected and any cracks found were repaired in accordance with manufacturer or V.R./PTC procedures.

Since the sale of these locomotives to private operators and in privatising the freight and passenger fleets, the processes for ensuring the integrity of locomotive underframes have been found to be deficient.

**The following actions are to be undertaken**

All Owners and Operators of diesel locomotives accessing the Tasmanian railway networks are to:

1. undertake inspections of the underframe bolster assembly on its older class locomotives, including Victorian A, B, S, X, T, Y, Classes and other similar classes manufactured by Clyde Engineering.
2. review for effectiveness work procedures that the organisation has in place for the periodic inspection of the underframes of diesel locomotive classes These procedures and the results of the inspections must be documented.
3. review work procedures that the organisation has in place for repairing the underframes of diesel locomotive classes found to have integrity affecting cracking.
4. submit the results of their inspections and the review of procedures for ongoing inspection, monitoring and repair of cracking affecting the integrity of diesel locomotive underframes, to the Senior Rail Safety Officer, Department of Infrastructure, Energy & Resources by 20<sup>th</sup> August 2004.

For further information, contact Michael Hall on (03) 9655 8975 or Kevin Butler on (03) 9655 8955 in DOI Victoria.

Approved By: -----
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