



## **SAFETY ALERT**

<b>DATE of ISSUE:</b> 24 July 2013	<b>NOTICE No:</b> RSN 2013 - 01
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Management of trains carrying dangerous goods
<b>ADVICE TO:</b>	All affected Rail Transport Operators / All Regulators / ONRSR
<b>FROM:</b>	Rob Burrows - Director Rail Safety

### **Background**

The recent Canadian rail disaster involving a runaway of an unmanned train consisting of crude oil cars that derailed in the middle of the small town of Lac-Mégantic in Quebec has highlighted the need for rail transport operators to review their current operational arrangements for trains carrying dangerous goods. The accident set off massive explosions and fires killing many people and destroying many buildings.

Although the investigation into the cause of the runaway is not completed safety investigators from the Transport Safety Board of Canada have identified immediate actions that Canadian railway operators must undertake to ensure the safe movement of dangerous goods. These actions relate to the following operational imperatives:

1. Railway operating procedures must be reviewed to ensure that trains carrying dangerous goods are not left unattended on the mainline track; and
2. Railway vehicles must always be properly secured.

### **The following actions need to be taken:**

- Rail Transport Operators need to consider the potential for this runaway situation to occur within the scope of their activities. Where relevant to their operation rail transport operators should conduct a risk assessment to assess whether their current procedures and processes for the operation and stowage of dangerous goods vehicles is adequate to manage associated risks so far as is reasonably practicable.
- Procedures and processes to be reviewed must include the management of unmanned trains and the number of handbrakes that must be applied to ensure that a runaway situation cannot occur in the event that effective train braking is not available.
- Rail Transport Operators are to confirm to the Director Rail Safety, Office of Rail Safety (WA) before the 30 September 2013 that operating arrangements for the transport of dangerous goods have been reviewed (and updated where required) to ensure that all risks are being adequately managed.

For further information, contact Clive Weaire on (08) 6551 6708