

# Notice to Rail Transport Operators

## Safety Alert



Objective Document ID:	A921402
Rail Safety Alert No	RSA-2018-001
Date Issued	26 September 2018

### 1 Subject

#### Identification of asbestos in draft gear pocket wear liner

### 2 Issue

The Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) has been advised by Aurizon of the identification of Chrysotile (white asbestos) in the top coupler / yoke pin wear liner of the draft pocket on a locomotive.

ONRSR notes that the wear liner may also be located on rolling stock of other rail transport operators.

ONRSR advises all rail transport operators to read the attached safety alert issued by Aurizon and take actions where appropriate.

**This advice is effective immediately**

Peter Doggett

**Executive Director National Operations**



# Identification of asbestos in draft gear pocket wear liner

## Attention: Locomotive Maintainers and staff

### Summary

- Chrysotile (white asbestos) has been detected in the top coupler / yoke pin wear liner of the draft pocket on locomotive 2351 (overhauled to 2702). This locomotive is currently located at the PRS facility in Redbank.
- The wear liner is characterised as a bonded asbestos product and poses a low risk to health as the asbestos fibres are bound within a solid mass, with very low risk of loose fibres becoming airborne.
- The specific location of the liner in the roof of the pocket means that it is not ordinarily accessible as part of routine maintenance in the depots and undertaken by Aurizon employees.
- Aurizon has commissioned further independent testing to determine what level of risk, if any, may exist in relation to specific maintenance activities.
- In the interim and consistent with Aurizon's Zero Harm philosophy, no maintenance tasks/ repairs are to be performed on the stated locomotive classes, including any steam or high-pressure water cleaning.
- This suspension of maintenance applies to other classes of locomotives where wear liners with this same material could be installed, including in QLD 2170, 2300, 2300D, 2470, and locomotive class in WA DFZ.

### Important information

- The wear liner is positioned above the coupler / yoke pin of the locomotive, inside the draft gear pocket.
- Further analysis is underway to determine whether other locomotive classes are affected (these may include; in QLD 2170, 2300, 2300D, 2470, and in WA DFZ.) Further communication will follow once the results of the analysis have been confirmed.

### Action to be taken

- Ensure all maintenance staff at all depots with the locomotives described above are advised of the issue.
- Until further notice, no maintenance tasks/ repairs are to be performed on the locomotive classes detailed above, including any steam or high-pressure water cleaning.
- The visual examination of the external part of the coupler is not considered a risk and should continue as part of normal activities.
- Planners/ schedulers will need to apply for extension to current inspections via the Principal Engineer, Roger Buckley

### Further updates

- Aurizon will provide an update to employees when further information is available, including the outcome of the independent testing.
- If you require further information, please talk to your leader in the first instance. You can also get further information by contacting the Principal Advisor Occupational Hygiene: [steven.gillies@aurizon.com.au](mailto:steven.gillies@aurizon.com.au).

<b>Contact Person:</b>	Darren Brehmer, Locomotive Lead
<b>Content Endorsed By:</b>	Ana Bran, Head of Rollingstock Fleet Services
<b>Approved by:</b>	Danny Harnedy, Head of Safety Health and Environment
<b>Issue Ref/Alert Name:</b>	<b><u>CSA-SHE-004-2018 Identification of asbestos draft gear pocket wear liner</u></b>
<b>Close-out Date:</b>	This Alert is to be removed from the noticeboard on 18 <sup>th</sup> of December 2018

*Please note:* By the closeout date (three months from issue), Managers and Supervisors should have undertaken to follow up inspections or audits to validate the actions have been implemented and continue to be followed.  
Please print and post on your local noticeboard.

*Remember for safety communication:*

- **Red** icon for an Alert = Stop. Assess the Alert and take any required actions before proceeding. (Face to face communication is critical.)
- **Amber** icon for an Advice = Pause. Prepare to stop if necessary. Assess the Advice and take any required actions.
- **Green** icon for an Advice = Proceed but pay attention

**ZERO**Harm



## Supervisor's Validation Form

<b>Identification of asbestos draft gear pocket wear liner</b>		<b>Issue Ref:</b>	<b>CSA-SHE-004-2018</b>
<b>Surname:</b>		<b>First Name:</b>	
<b>Service Number:</b>		<b>Location:</b>	
<b>Date Received:</b>		<b>Date Completed:</b>	
<b>Company Name:</b>			

<b>Checklist</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Comments – including further actions</b>
Alert was discussed with all employees on duty			
Alert was discussed with all employees on their return who were off duty at the time of circulation			
Alert is noted for communication to employees who are currently absent			
Employees are clear on the content and intent of the Alert and any actions required			
Issues and concerns were resolved or escalated			
Alert has been placed on the noticeboard			
Immediate action has been taken where required			
By the close out date (three months from issue of the communication) follow up inspections or audits will be undertaken to validate the Alert			
Alert has been included on local Hazard and Risk Registers			
Three months from issue of the communication any local forms, procedures or policy documents and/or operating instructions should be updated to reflect information contained in the Alert.			
Copies of this form and the verification forms have been stored in the workplace			

<b>Supervisor's Signature:</b> (Mandatory)	<b>Date:</b>
---	--------------

**Please keep this document at your workplace for easy reference and audit purposes.**

