

# Safety Alert



## NOTICE TO RAIL TRANSPORT OPERATORS

RSA-2014-01      Date Issued 17/03/2014

### SUBJECT

#### Structural Fatigue Failure of Wagon Underframe

### ISSUE

On 01/03/2014 a PQMY container flat wagon suffered a significant fatigue failure at a sectional change in the under-frame (ie. main longitudinal beams). The fracture had originated in the bottom flange of the beam and then propagated up through the web.

This particular wagon was manufactured by Perry Engineering in 1974 as part of a batch of 55 motor vehicle flat wagons, originally coded RMX. Since construction these wagons have undergone a number of recordings (i.e. AQMX, AQSY, AQMY, RQKY, EQMY, RRKY, PQMY, PQTY, PQFY, etc.) and have been under the management of different rail transport operators, however the original wagon numbers have been retained, namely, 2733 to 2787 inclusive.

In addition, it should be noted that there are a number of other wagon types that are derivatives of the RO/ROX/RMX wagon that either share the same design and /or manufacturer.

#### Actions

All rail transport operators are asked to:

1. Identify whether any of the wagons as detailed above are assets currently under their respective control and if so, put in place effective interim control measures to demonstrate that these wagons will continue to satisfy safety requirements in their current operating environment. Each wagon should be thoroughly examined in the suspect area, which may include visual inspection or additional non-destructive testing methods, such as Dye Penetrant or Magnetic Particle Inspection.

This incident further highlights the need for rail transport operators to:

2. Record and track modifications to rolling stock and to ensure the inspection and maintenance requirements are taking into account any such modifications;
3. Review and adjust inspection and maintenance requirements taking into account the age, service life and history of rolling stock;
4. Undertake an engineering review for rolling stock reaching the end of their designed service life.

For further information please contact Andreas Kornusch, National Manager Audit and Compliance on (08) 8406 1528

**THIS ADVICE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

Peter Doggett  
**Executive Director National Operations**