

# Safety Alert

## NOTICE TO RAIL TRANSPORT OPERATORS

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RSA-2015-01

Date Issued: 19/01/2015

### SUBJECT

#### **Identification of asbestos gasket in coal wagon valves**

### ISSUE

The Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator (ONRSR) has been advised by Asciano of the identification of an asbestos gasket in a valve on a Pacific National coal wagon.

The ONRSR notes that the affected gaskets may also be located on other wagons of other rail transport operators.

The ONRSR advises all rail transport operators to read the attached safety alert issued by Asciano and take action where appropriate.

**THIS ADVICE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

Peter Doggett  
**Executive Director National Operations**

## Identification of Asbestos Gasket in Coal Wagon Valves

15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 | Near Miss | Potential Exposure

### What happened?

While undertaking a SM on a Coal wagon a maintainer identified a “Red” colour gasket in a **Faiveley Check Value (CV010)**. The employee was suspicious of the material the gasket may have been made of.

The gasket was sent to a NATA Accredited laboratory for analysis. The testing showed the presence of Chrysotile Asbestos.

### What immediate action has been taken?

An attempt is currently underway to identify the distribution of potentially effected valves across the fleet.

### What are the Risks?

The gaskets are almost completely enclosed within the valves (see Photo). The potential for free asbestos fibres to be released and inhalation of fibres from the gasket is considered **extremely low**.

### Actions to be Taken.

The gaskets in position pose minimal risk. Where the gaskets are becoming inefficient or faulty they are **NOT** to be repaired. A complete change out of the valve is to occur.

Once the valve is removed it is to be placed in a plastic bag, sealed using adhesive tape and isolated in a safe location. In due course the valves will be disposed of as contaminated waste.

## Manufacturers Information.

Faiveley have stated that they commenced the removal of ACM (Klingorit 3XA) gaskets in 1991 and have replaced them with a non-threatening material. (Klingersil C-4400).



New Gasket Material

Green Colour = **Safe**

Old Gasket Material

Red Colour = **Do Not Work On**



Location of Gasket Material

Colour able to be determined

Faiveley Check Valve (CV 010)

### Further Information

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