

Safety Alert

RSA-2013-01 Date issued: 26 April 2013



NOTICE TO RAIL TRANSPORT OPERATORS
including rail infrastructure managers of private sidings

SUBJECT

Derailers - Failure to derail due to faulty design, installation, maintenance or operation

ISSUE

The Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator was recently notified of an incident in which rolling stock travelled over a derailer without derailing. Rail Transport Operators should revise their product acceptance processes in light of this incident and note the following:

1. Improper design, installation or maintenance can render the derailer ineffective;
2. Derailers must be suitable for the intended purpose and operating conditions, including but not limited to rolling stock characteristics (e.g. axle load, bogie configuration), track characteristics, potential speed of rolling stock, direction of approach, etc;
3. Derailers must be correctly installed, aligned and regularly inspected and maintained;
4. The track structure supporting the derailer must be in appropriate condition.



Wheel on derailer



Wheel climbing over deflector bar



Wheel in the air before re-railing

Rail Transport Operators should take note of this Alert and take appropriate action, including but not limited to:

1. Reviewing product acceptance testing processes;
2. Assessing the suitability of all derailers in use for their respective operating environments;
3. Ensuring derailers are correctly installed, aligned and regularly inspected and maintained.

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

THIS ADVICE IS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

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