

Confidential Safety Information Reporting Scheme

Sharp Wheel Flanges

A report was made that a driver had detected a sharp wheel flange as he was inspecting a passenger train before taking it into service. The sharp flange was reported to his manager however management decided that the wheel was still safe and sent the train into service. The reporter was concerned that the wheel was exhibiting signs of deterioration and should be immediately repaired. The train identification and the location of the wheel in the consist was provided to OTSI.

CSIRS Requirement

OTSI notified RailCorp immediately and requested that this train be inspected as soon as possible. RailCorp was asked to provide a report on the state of the wheel in question and any other defects that were found on the train.

Investigation outcome

RailCorp investigated the matter and provided an investigation report from the Depot Engineer and the Fleet Manager at Flemington which confirmed that two wheels on the train were found to have Class 2 arrises and that there was no sign of any other defects. This meant that the wheels were in tolerance for normal running.

As a precautionary measure the wheels were booked for wheel turning and a general inspection a week later.

OTSI Action

A copy of this summary report has been passed to the Transport Safety Regulation division of the Independent Transport Safety and Reliability Regulator. OTSI has also advised the reporter of the response and actions provided by the responsible operator.

This report and the associated response will be retained by the Office of Transport Safety Investigation for future safety trend analysis.