

Confidential Safety Information Reporting Scheme

Bridge Strikes

A report was made that on several occasions motor vehicles have struck RailCorp overhead bridges and that rail traffic has been allowed to continue to travel over the structures before a bridge civil engineer has certified the bridge/s to be safe to travel over.

CSIRS Requirement

As part of the OTSI investigation, a Safety Valve Notification (SVN) was issued to RailCorp asking them to address these concerns and to seek clarification of the current rules, procedures and interface agreements within RailCorp and the various external organisations in association with the reporting and deploying of staff to incidents involving motor vehicles striking bridges.

Investigation outcome

RailCorp advised that they had reviewed a number of these incidents which confirmed that Police and the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) had not contacted RailCorp for over four hours in regards to one of the bridge strikes. RailCorp reported that they would seek further consultation with Police and the RTA to ensure that in future they are notified immediately of such incidents. RailCorp further reiterated that they have robust procedures in place, and that in the event of a bridge strike that RailCorp train controllers were equipped with a range of options to ensure subsequent safe utilisation.

In response to the CSIRS, RailCorp added that they were considering additional measures to enhance its approach to the management of bridge strikes and progressing interface agreements with road authorities, consistent with the Rail Safety Act.

OTSI Action

The outcomes of the inquiries made by both OTSI and RailCorp have been recorded in the OTSI Safety Investigation Database for future review and trend analysis.

OTSI has advised the reporter of the response and actions provided by RailCorp.