



Australian Rail Track Corporation Ltd

SAFETY ALERT



ARTC No. 57

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Hi-rail Vehicles – Engaging of Hi-rail equipment

Recently, there have been several incidents that have resulted in Hi-rail track vehicles de-railing

Investigations have found that the likely primary cause of the de-railments was due to not having the hi-rail equipment fully engaged.

For the front hi-rail guidance system to be fully operational, requires the “over centre” condition to be checked.

Note – Over centre is the condition where the vertical line of the rail axle is past (in the direction of downward rotation) the vertical centre line of the swinging frame pivot point, when viewed from the side of the vehicle. The vehicle will rise as the kit is moved into position, and then lower again as the weight is taken up by the suspension of the Rail guidance equipment.

Both front and rear hi-rail guidance equipment needs to be properly checked to ensure that it is fully engaged.

By referring to the Hi-rail Operators Manual, detail is given on the process and checks required to fully engage the hi-rail, rail guidance equipment.

Warning - Workers stepping out of hi-rail vehicles (when in hi-rail mode) need to be aware of the added height, from the ground

Immediate Action Required.

Communicate this Safety Alert to all Work Groups who may be involved in the use of hi-rail vehicles (when in hi-rail mode):

- Ensure that pre-start checks of hi-rail vehicles are undertaken.
- Ensure that Hi-rail Operator Manuals are available for all hi-rail vehicles.
- Ensure that a visual inspection is undertaken when a Hi-rail vehicle has been placed on track and in hi-rail mode prior to moving off.
- Review the relevant section of the operators Manual – (section relating to the engaging of the hi-rail, rail guidance equipment)
- A sign-off is obtained to verify that this safety alert has been discussed.