

Dear Mrs. Högberg, dear Mr. Karanikas,

Thank you for sending us the final report RJ 2015:02e and giving us the opportunity to report about our actions concerning technical improvements to reduce the risk of twisted brake hoses and our activities as ECM for the affected wagons.

Please find below our implemented measures.

1) Organizational Changes

The ECM responsibility was transferred to VTG as of 1st September 2015. In this regard, the maintenance rules of the former ECM AAE are transferred to the maintenance system of VTG. The new ECM will check the existing hire contracts regarding compliance with the new legal ECM regulations and will implement organizational changes if necessary. This includes amongst other things the maintenance of wagons based on the VPI maintenance manual plus specific additions for different wagon types, i.e. regarding the brake system.

The VPI maintenance manual can be purchased by the workshops from the VPI. The purchase of this manual is a necessary precondition for VTG for the cooperation with a workshop. The mentioned wagon specific additions are distributed centrally and actively by VTG to the workshops with whom the VTG group is working. VTG asks regularly for a written acknowledgement of receipt for these instructions. It is therefore ensured that all workshops have the current maintenance regulations of the ECM at their disposal at any time.

2) Technical Changes

The air-brake connection hoses are successively replaced with optimized hoses with two white stripes in longitudinal direction. These white stripes allow a simple recognition of a twisted hose during assembly or control.

The current maintenance plan of AAE, the TSO, module 22, appendix 4 "uncoupling and coupling wagons" was revised to give a clarified and more precise instruction how to dismount and mount these brake hoses correctly to avoid twisted brake hoses.

Furthermore, we are currently developing a rigid, twist resistant air-brake hose together with DAKO. Before this new product can be used in the fleet, a long-term field test will be necessary. It is planned to equip two wagons with this kind of brake hose to prove the suitability for operation.

We are convinced that the above mentioned measures are suitable to ensure the safe operation of the wagons.

If you have any other questions, don't hesitate to contact us.

Freundliche Grüsse - Best regards - Meilleures salutations

Andreas Reinhard

AAE - Ahaus Alstätter Eisenbahn AG
Safety Management / WSS
Business Center Neuhof
Neuhofstrasse 4
CH-6341 Baar
Tel: +41 41 727 55 20
Fax: +41 41 727 55 24
andreas.reinhard@vtg.com
www.aae.ch
