GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2005/M(N)/951/49 Dt. 5/10/11

Chief Mech. Engineers
All Indian Railways

SUB: Increase in Hot box cases on freight stock

Cases of hot axle failures resulting in goods train accidents have registered a sharp increase on IR during recent months. These cases include a major accident involving a loaded BTPN rake on NFR on 28/9/11, a derailment of loaded BCNHL rake on WCR on 2/10/11 and a derailment of loaded BOXN rake on NCR on 4/10/11. These cases point towards rusting of established practices existing on railways to prevent hot box cases from turning into train accidents.

It is requested that the following measures may be enforced immediately to bring the situation quickly under control :

1) An alert may be sounded on all zonal railways to attract the attention of TXR staff on platforms, station staff , gatemen, signal maintainers etc. to remain vigilant towards any tell tale signs of hot boxes on passing trains e.g. grease oozing, smoke, sound, smell etc.

2) Safety posters depicting hot box detection and immediate follow up action should be affixed at all stations, gate huts, cabins and maintenance depots.

3) The practice of box feeling immediately on arrival of train in examination yards must be enforced rigorously.

4) Hand held infra red temperature measuring guns should be made available in adequate numbers at all train examination depots including train passing gangs. The staff should be trained in using this gadget correctly to check axle box temperature.

5) Care should be taken at wagon depots while handling wheelsets to avoid any damage to grease seals.

6) Grease seals must be stored and handled carefully as prescribed by OEM. Also grease used should be of correct quality.

7) All CTRB maintenance facilities in railway workshops must be subjected to internal quality audit to RDSO proforma. Any shortcomings noticed must be removed in a time bound manner.

8) All cases of hot BOX must be investigated without delay and a detailed report must be submitted to RDSO on case to case basis.

9) All C&W maintenance personnel should be encouraged to suggest innovations to enable early hot box detection on running trains easy.

Kindly initiate immediate action and keep the Board apprised of the results.

(RAVINDER GUPTA)
Executive Director Mech. Engg.(Fr.)
Railway Board

C/-

1. CSOs all Indian Railways
2. EDS(W)/RDSO,