



ASSOCIATION OF TOURIST & HERITAGE RAIL AUSTRALIA

ABN 19 755 744 868

ATHRA ALERT #32 – April 2007

Asbestos Detected in Bogie Side Bearer Fibrous Wear Liners

Pacific National has recently reported the discovery of Chrysotile (White) Asbestos in 'YM' (two piece) bogie side bearer fibrous wear liners. During the early 1990's the material used in the wear liners fitted to this type of bogie was altered to a more durable nylon material and the fibrous wear liners prior to this period were discontinued. The fibrous liners were manufactured up until 1989 from a "Phenolic Resin Asbestos Laminate" material. Recently, it has been discovered that some old fibrous wear liners fitted to YM bogies may still be present. Primarily these have been discovered in stored bogies.

Wear Liner Identification (Courtesy of Pacific National)



The fibrous type wear liners have a distinctive woven appearance (cross check) and are generally light grey in colour. Nylon type wear plates generally appear as dark grey in colour or in some cases yellow. These materials will not show evidence of fibres.

Key Message

Asbestos containing materials have been used extensively throughout industry in a variety of applications. While the use of asbestos containing materials has been phased out over a considerable period of time, asbestos containing materials may still be present on old equipment. Although the Pacific National report is specific to the 'YM' (two piece) type bogie, this does not preclude similar materials being used for wear liners on other bogie types.

Recommended Actions:

- Make this Alert available to your rollingstock maintenance crews.
- Ensure your procedures for identifying, working with and removing asbestos and asbestos containing materials comply with the requirements of your State regulations.
- Ensure your rollingstock maintenance crews understand the appropriate procedures for working with asbestos containing materials and the health risks of not following the required procedures.
- Establish a procedure to identify and record the types of wear liner materials present on your rollingstock and to record the removal of asbestos containing materials if found.