

SUMMARY

FREIGHT TRAIN RUNNING THROUGH RAIL BARRIER AT KARJAA, FINLAND, ON 1 JUNE 2006

On Thursday 1 June, 2006 an accident took place at Karjaa, Finland, where a freight train collided with a rail barrier at the end of a trap siding. The locomotive of the train derailed. As a result of the collision, the locomotive and the rail barrier were damaged.

The immediate cause of the incident was the fact that the driver of the 3046 train passed a signal in a stop position, without permission. Inadequate communication between the engine driver and the remote control operator essentially contributed to the generation of the incident. The driver of the 3046 train had advised the remote control operator of a balise failure, and the remote control operator pursued this discussion while giving another train permission to pass the signal in the stop position. The driver of the 3046 train hence firmly believed that the permission was granted to the train run by himself.

The Accident Investigation Board of Finland does not make any new safety recommendations based on this incident, but it underscores the importance of the communication procedures as adhering to a due form specified in the Railway Signalling Regulations (Junaturvallisuussääntö, Jt).