

Accident to persons caused by RS in motion
at the Skirotava station on 7 September

Summary

An accident occurred on 7 September 2014 at 6.17 a.m. at the railway station Skirotava. The shunter was struck by an uncoupling rail tanks group and suffered fatal injuries. Tanks were moving from hump in marshalling yard.

At the moment of the accident the marshalling yard was under reconstruction and marshalling yard automatic switches were operated manually. Due to this reason the shunter had additional responsibility, resp., to move the switch manually.

As a result of the investigation the recommendation has been developed to reduce the risk faced by shunters in case workload and responsibilities are changed. A safety recommendation is addressed to the railway infrastructure manager.

Conclusions

The direct cause of the accident is:

The shunter didn't check the tanks were moving and walked on the track just in front of the moving tanks.

Underlying causes are the following:

One of the possible reasons is shunter's fatigue and temporary loss of concentration as a result of the changes in working conditions and increased workload;

Other assumption is that shunter's personal problems might have caused temporary deterioration of the focus functions.

Recommendation 2015-3

The railway infrastructure manager should examine the possibility of reducing shunters' working environment risk factors, in cases there are changes in the workload and responsibilities of staff members, providing training opportunities to do special exercises to remove drowsiness and fatigue.