

Railway serious incident investigation report

Railway operator : Keisei Electric Railway Co., Ltd.

Incident type : Violating closure section for construction, the railway serious incident related with the situation that train ran in the section under construction works, while the construction work or the maintenance work that should be implemented to stop train operation was implemented, prescribed in Number 5, Clause 1, Article 4, of the Ordinance on Report on Railway Accidents, etc.

Date and time : About 00:55, July 27, 2016

Location : At around 46,062 m from the origin at Keisei-Ueno station, between Keisei-Usui station and Keisei-Sakura station, double track, Keisei Main Line, Sakura City, Chiba Prefecture

SUMMARY

On July 27, 2016, the assistant manager of Sogo Branch Office of the Conductor's Office of Keisei Electric Railway Co., Ltd., accepted the request to start construction work in the down track between Keisei-Usui station and Sogosando station, from the person in charge of the closed track construction work. The assistant manager confirmed that the outbound 2345 train, the last train bound for Keisei-Narita station departing from the down track of Sogosando station, had departed from Sogosando station, and approved to start construction works at about 00:51.

On the other hand, the outbound 2373K train, the last train bound for Keisei-Sakura station, departed from Keisei-Usui station about one minute behind schedule, at about 00:55, and went into the closed track section after the start of the construction works was approved.

PROBABLE CAUSES

It is highly probable that the serious incident had occurred as the 2373K train ran in the closed track section after the approval of the construction works that should be implemented to stop train operation, because the request to start the closed track construction works was approved without confirmed arrival of the 2373K train at Keisei-Sakura station, the last train bound for Keisei-Sakura station.

It is probable that the approval to start the closed track construction works without confirmation of arrival of the 2373K train at Keisei-Sakura station, was related the situation that it has been usual situation that the regulation, that the track closing procedures should be implemented based on the mutual consensus in the related station masters, was not obeyed, because it was the situation that the absence of trains in the closed track section was confirmed by the departure of the 2345 train from Sogosando station, in the serious incident.

Here, it is somewhat likely that the 2373K train entered to the closed track section in the background that the company had treated as the measure not to enter trains into closed track section, only to confirm absence of trains etc., in the closed track section, in the decision of approval to start construction works.