

President-Director,
Hokkaido Railway Company Ltd.

Norihiro Goto, Chairman,
Japan Transport Safety Board

On the recommendation concerned with the railway serious incident
in the premises of Oiwake station, Sekisho Line, Hokkaido Railway Company Ltd.

It is probable that this serious incident was caused because your company did not obeyed the rule to insert the switching plugs to connect the improved equipment to the existing equipment, and did not check the wiring diagrams drawn by the contracted company sufficiently, at the same time, the progress management for the wiring work was inappropriate, in the construction work to improve the interlocking device which is the signaling system related to the bases of the safety.

In addition, it is probable that the plural incidents had occurred related with that the occurrence of the incident, that the signaling device which should indicate the stop signal did not indicate the stop signal, had not been recognized as the serious incident that becomes to the problem for the safety, and resulted that the communication system in the urgency was not actively used and the transfers between the company staffs had not been implemented properly.

In view of the result of this serious incident investigation, the Japan Transport Safety Board recommends your company pursuant to Article 27, paragraph (1) of the Act for Establishment of the Japan Transport Safety Board as follows in order to secure transport safety.

In addition, your company is requested to report on the measures taken, based on the stipulation of the above Article 27, paragraph (2).

Notes

(1) Your company has been decided the measures, as the safety actions, that did not affect to the existing signaling equipment in the construction works, such as to check the inserted places of the switching plugs and the variety of drawings, and specified the methods to be carried out when confirmed the incident, that the indicator lamp of the signal device which should indicate the stop signal did not become to the turned off status that showed the stop indication, for the staffs to operate the signals, in the handling operation manual. These measures are considered as effective to prevent the recurrence, therefore, conduct continuously the education and training for the staffs in your company in order to let

understand the purpose of these measures genuinely, and to make able to respond properly in the occurrence of the abnormality.

- (2) The serious incident, that the block signal which should indicate the stop signal did not indicate the stop signal, had occurred in Hakodate Line of your company on January 15, 2009, although it is considered that the safety actions had been implemented after that, this serious incident occurred. Therefore, your company should inspect again for the constructing system and the management method, etc., for the construction work, etc., of the signaling equipment, establish firmly the basic actions to the staffs engaged in the work including the members other than the staffs in your company, study on the measures for the safety and take the required measures, in order to prevent further incidents.