

Railway accident investigation report

Railway operator: Kyushu Railway Co., Ltd.

Accident type: Level crossing accident

Date and time: About 08:25, November 5, 2013

Location: Shinburi-Kendo level crossing, class one level crossing, in the premises of Takahashi station, Sasebo Line, Takeo City, Saga Prefecture

SUMMARY

The local 4927M train, one-man operated and composed of two vehicles, starting from Tosu station bound for Haiki station of Kyushu Railway Co., Ltd., departed at Kitakata station on schedule, i.e., 08:21, November 5, 2013.

The train driver noticed the obstacle at the Shinburi-Kendo level crossing in front of the train and applied an emergency brake immediately, but the train collided with the rear flap of the load carrying platform and the loaded iron plates of trailer truck, and the train stopped about 106m away from the level crossing.

There were 65 passengers and the train driver on board the train, among them 10 passengers were injured. There was the truck driver on board the truck but he was not injured. The iron plates loaded on the trailer truck were fell on the ground but there was no injury in the public.

The front face and right side of the front vehicle were damaged, and a part of the load carrying platform of the trailer truck was damaged but the fire did not break out.

PROBABLE CAUSES

It is considered highly probable that the train, when passed the Shinburi-Kendo level crossing, collided with the rear part of the load carrying platform and the loaded iron plates of the trailer truck, which stood for the stop signal at the intersection ahead of the level crossing, staying inside the level crossing disturbing the train route.

It is considered probable that the trailer truck stood keeping the rear part of the load carrying platform and the loaded iron plates remained in the level crossing because the truck driver did not suspect that distance between the stop line of the intersection and the level crossing might be shorter than the length of the trailer truck, while the truck driver had missed his way and his consciousness was concentrated how to return to the scheduled route. In addition, it is considered probable that the collision of the train with the trailer truck was induced by the effect of the late emergency brake timing due to the thin thickness of the iron plate covered by the sheets disturbing the train route at the level crossing, which was difficult to recognize as the obstacles by the train driver, and the position of the load carrying platform and the loaded iron plates could not be detected by the obstruction detecting device for the level crossing because they were out of detecting area.