

May 31, 2013

President-Director,
Hokkaido Railway Company Ltd.

Norihiro Goto, Chairman,
Japan Transport Safety Board

On the recommendation concerned with the train derailment accident
in the premises of Seifuzan signal station, Sekisho Line, Hokkaido Railway Company Ltd.

It is probable that the train derailed because the hanging pin, suspending the reduction gear in the rear part of the 4th vehicle in the inbound Limited Express 4014D train, was fallen off. In addition, with regards to the falling off of the hanging pin, it is probable that the remarkably large vibration in the train running, due to the irregularity in circular shape of the wheel treads caused by the deteriorating abrasions and exfoliations in the wheel treads, was related with the looseness and the fallen off of the grooved hexagonal nut holding the hanging pin.

In view of the result of this accident 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 the transport safety.

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

Notes

Your company should establish the proper inspecting period and methods to comprehend the condition of the wheel treads, and should manage the condition of the wheel treads thoroughly, as not to use the wheels which should be treated as the wheels whose size of the tread defects or exfoliation exceeded the limit to be used.