



NO 94-120

TRAIN 150

COLLISION WITH PEDESTRIAN

NEWMARKET

24 JULY 1994

ABSTRACT

On 24 July 1994 at 2008 hours Train 150 struck and killed a pedestrian walking on the railway line near Newmarket. The pedestrian was not entitled to be on the railway line. No specific safety deficiencies were identified.

TRANSPORT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION COMMISSION

RAIL ACCIDENT REPORT NO 94-120

Train Type and Number: Freight, 150

Date and Time: 24 July 1994, 2008 hours

Location: North Auckland Line, 7.50 km, near Newmarket

Type of Occurrence: Pedestrian struck by train

Persons on Board: Crew: 2

Injuries: Crew: Nil
Other#: 1 Fatal

Information Sources: New Zealand Rail Limited
New Zealand Police

Investigator in Charge: Mr W J D Guest

Pedestrian

1. NARRATIVE

- 1.1 Train 150, on 24 July 1994, was crewed by two Locomotive Engineers (LEs), one driving and the other acting as Train Operator. The train was travelling at about 50 km/h, under light braking, down the 1 in 41 gradient between Remuera and Newmarket.
- 1.2 The weather was clear, although there had been rain earlier in the night.
- 1.3 Both crew members sighted a male pedestrian between 70 and 100 m ahead, walking towards the train. He was walking between the rails when first sighted.
- 1.4 The LE driving sounded the horn and made a heavier brake application, but the pedestrian continued walking between the rails. He made no attempt to clear the line until the locomotive was only about 3 m from him.
- 1.5 The pedestrian was unable to move clear in time, and was struck a glancing blow by the front of the locomotive.
- 1.6 Both crew members dismounted once the train had come to a full stop, and ran back to see if there was any assistance they could render. However, it was obvious to them that the pedestrian had been killed outright.

2. FINDINGS

- 2.1 The train was being operated normally prior to the accident.
- 2.2 The locomotive crew took appropriate action upon sighting the pedestrian.
- 2.3 There was insufficient space in which to stop the train before it struck the pedestrian.
- 2.4 The pedestrian was not entitled to be walking on the railway line.

21 June 1995

J Fish
Acting Chief Commissioner