



Transporta nelaimes gadījumu un incidentu izmeklēšanas birojs

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ANNUAL REPORT 2020

in the field of railway accident investigation

Riga 2021

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1. Summary

Transport accident and incident investigation bureau (hereinafter – Bureau) is an independent authority under the supervision of the Ministry for Transport. The main purpose of the Bureau is to investigate civil aircraft accidents and incidents, serious railway accidents and other railway accidents, as well as marine accidents and incidents.

Investigation conducted by the Bureau has no connection with apportioning blame or liability, but the sole purpose of it is to prevent similar occurrences in the future and to improve the safety of aviation, railway and marine transport.

Bureau would like to use this annual report in order to provide information on railway accidents investigated by the Railway accident investigation department of Bureau, safety recommendations issued and measures taken in accordance with those issued safety recommendations.

Annual report contains general information on railway traffic accidents investigated. Complete information is available on internet site of the Bureau (<http://www.taiib.gov.lv/>).

Second paragraph contains short introduction of the Bureau.

An overview about received notifications on railway traffic accidents and investigation activities of the Bureau's Railway accident investigation department is prescribed in the third paragraph.

Information on safety recommendations and measures taken in accordance with the safety recommendations issued is provided in the fourth paragraph and attachment.

2. Bureau

Bureau is an independent authority under the supervision of the Ministry for Transport, the main functions of which within the field of investigation is prescribed in the Law on aviation, Railway law and Maritime administration and marine safety law.

The main task of the Bureau is to investigate aviation accidents and incidents which have taken place in the territory of the Republic of Latvia, serious railway accidents and significant accidents within the Latvian railway network, as well as marine accidents within the territorial sea and internal waters of the Republic of Latvia. Bureau can also participate in the investigations conducted by investigation authorities of other States, if Latvian citizens or aircraft, rolling stock or ships registered in the register of the Republic of Latvia are involved.

2.1. Mission and vision

The Mission task of the Bureau is to conduct an independent investigation and to issue safety recommendations in order to prevent aviation, railway and marine accidents, incidents and occurrences.

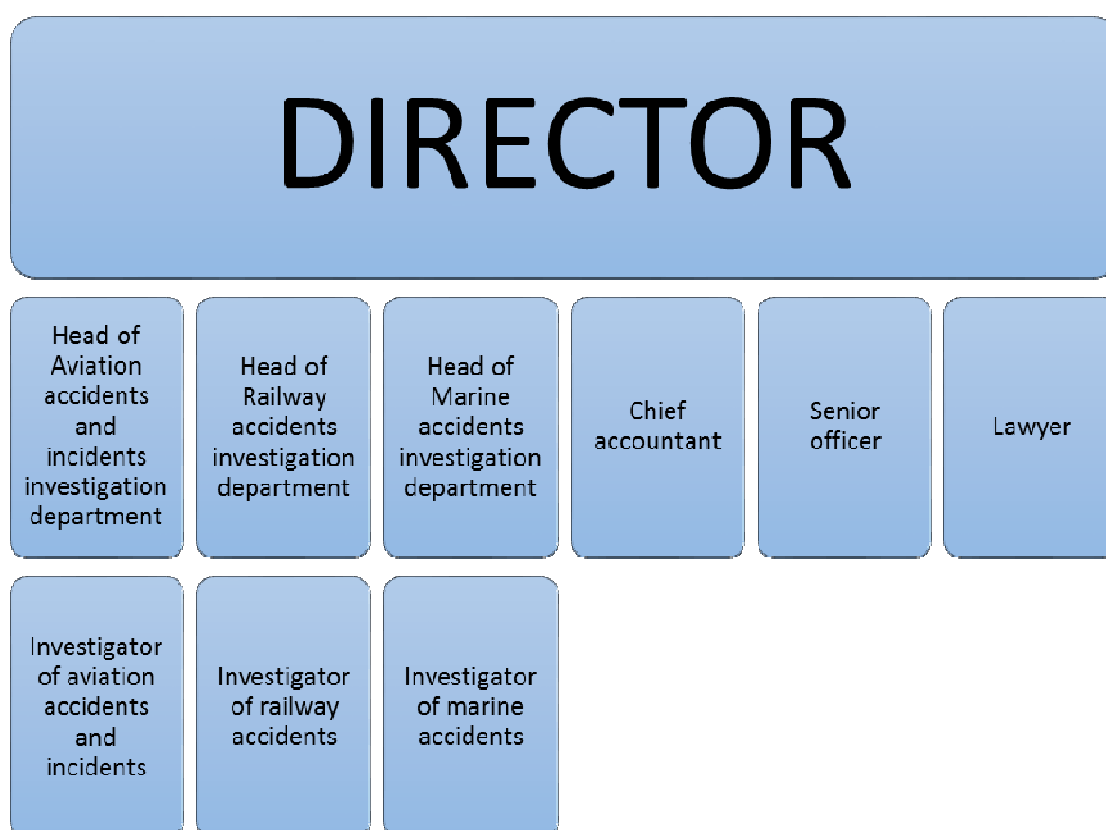
Vision of the Bureau:

- Within the prescribed period of time and in high professional level to complete all investigations commenced, thus providing in due time prevention of similar accidents;
- To ensure, that the investigation is completely independent and does not cause any doubts that it is objective;
- To make Bureau attractive as a work place for highly qualified professionals

2.2. Structure of Bureau

The work of the Bureau is managed by the director. There are three departments – accordingly aviation, railway marine – and three administrations workers in the Bureau. The scheme of the Bureau's structure is showed in picture 1.

3. Operations of Railway department of the Bureau in 2020



Picture 1. Scheme of the Bureau's structure

3.1. Notifications received

In 2020 Bureau received 41 notifications on railway traffic accidents. Ten of them were significant, including nine accidents to a person involving rolling stock in motion, and 31 railway traffic safety violations. Two of the significant accidents were connected with suicide attempts or were suspected suicide attempts. Seven cases were related to the violation of regulations of access to the railway. Those cases Bureau is not investigating.

After the initial examination of received notifications in relation with the obligation of the Bureau to investigate and after examination of findings, which could produce results of investigation, as well as after examination of the investigation results of the railway branch, in 29 cases investigations were ceased.

Complete statistics of railway accidents are published on the internet site of State Railway technical inspectorate <http://www.vdzti.gov.lv/>. These statistics are based on notifications made by the railway Infrastructure Manager and Railway Undertaking. Those statistics also contain accidents, which are investigated by the railway branch.

3.2. Investigations commenced in 2020

In 2020 the Bureau took the decision to commence investigation of two railway accidents:

- cracks in parts of the rolling stock in exploitation, which cause the risks of derailment or collision, were detected on April 2, 2020, in station Skirotava, where cracks were detected in the left and right side beam of the main frame of the flat wagon No.94963246.



- accident on level crossing, which took place on April 4, 2020, on the level crossing between the stations Ilmaja and Kalvene, where collision of the track and the last carriage of diesel train occurred and followed by derailment of it.



3.3. Investigations completed in 2020

In 2020 Railway accident investigation department of the Bureau completed the investigation of one significant railway accident, which took place on February 8, 2019, approximately around 7.09 in the railway section between stations Riga passenger-Tornakalns, when on the railway bridge over river Daugava the security guard of the bridge was fatally injured by electric train.

Complete information about this accident is available on internet site of the Bureau (<http://www.taiib.gov.lv/>).

4. Safety recommendations

Safety recommendations are proposals for improvement of the railway safety, issued by the Bureau and elaborated on the basis of the results of investigations.

4.1. Safety recommendations issued in 2020

In 2020 the Railway accident investigation department of the Bureau issued three safety recommendations. Their implementation status is shown in the attachment. All safety recommendations issued have been taken into consideration. Two of them have been already implemented, but implementation of one safety recommendations has been launched and still continues.

4.2. Measures taken in accordance with the safety recommendations issued before

Implementation of the safety recommendations issued by the Railway accident investigation department of the Bureau is being monitored by the State Railway technical inspectorate (hereinafter – Inspectorate). The Inspectorate on regular basis informs the Bureau the measures taken or planned in relation to the safety recommendations.

In relation to the implementation of the safety recommendations issued in 2020 the Bureau has received the following information from the Inspectorate:

- March 30, 2020. The implementation plan of Recommendation 2020-1 and Recommendation 2020-2;
- April 20, 2020. The implementation plan of Recommendation 2020-3;
- May 1, 2021. On the implementation of Recommendation 2020-1 and Recommendation 2020-2.

The Railway accident investigation department of the Bureau evaluated the implementation plans of safety recommendations and established, that necessary measures are being taken by the safety recommendations implementers in order to ensure, that the safety recommendations issued by the Bureau is properly taken into account and that the respective measures for their implementation are taken.

Attachment

Date and times:		On February 8, 2019, approximately at 7.09	
Place:		Railway section Riga passenger-Tornakalnns	
Type of accident:		Accident to a person involving rolling stock in motion	
Type of train and number:		Electric train ER2T – 7114, train No. 6504M	
Autotransports:		-	
		<i>In The train</i>	<i>In the road transport</i>
Number of people:	Crew:	1	-
	Passengers:	-	-
Fatalities:	Crew:	-	-
	Railway staff:	1	-
	Passengers:	-	-
Seriously injured:	Crew:	-	-
	Passengers:	-	-
Minor injuries:	Crew:	-	-
	Passengers:	-	-
Damages to the rolling stock:		No	
Damages to railway equipment:		No	
Other damages:		No	
Summary: Railway accident occurred on February 8, 2019, approximately at 7.09, when employee of “LDZ apsardze” Ltd. were hit and injured by electric train on the Riga railway bridge over the river Daugava. The accident happened when passenger train No.6504M was driving to the direction of Riga passenger station.			
Final report issued:		On February 7, 2020	
Recommendation 2020-1	To improve regulations in labour safety		
	For “LDZ apsardze” Ltd. to make respective amendments in the labour safety instruction, describing in detail actions of security guards in performing their duties on the railway bridge.		
Date	Status	Comments	
		Labour safety instruction was amended for security guards. Additional requirements were added for security guards when performing their duties on the Railway bridge.	
February 7, 2020	Implemented	“LDZ apsardze” has accepted recommendation. It was implemented on April 30, 2020	

Recommendation 2020-2	To improve the visibility for guard workers during the dark time of the day.	
	For “LDZ apsardze” Ltd. to consider possibility to put additional light reflecting elements on the work clothes within the area of arms and legs or to use other type of work clothes with HI-VIS technology, or to find other option, in order for guards to be better visible for train drivers during their patrol.	
Date	Status	Comments
		Elaborated and approved new sample of work clothes. For security guard work clothes reflecting element on the lower part of trousers was implemented. Work clothes have been changed for all security guards of the bridge. For the rest security guards of “LDZ apsardze” Ltd. work clothes will be changed when the existing will be worn off.
February 7, 2020	Ieviests	“LDZ apsardze” has accepted the recommendation. It was implemented on April 30, 2020.

Recommendation 2020-3	In order to prevent train drivers from the possibility of dazzling from the light system of railway bridge.	
	For railway infrastructure manager to modernize existing lighting of technological walk ways and tracks on the railway bridge over river Daugava, by finding such a technical solution, that train drivers wouldn't be dazzled and could in due time notice people on the bridge	
Date	Status	Comments
		Electrical management of infrastructure manager will reduce the dazzle effect of the existing lighting, by using temporary technical solution, as well as to replace experimentally 2 luminaires to LED luminaires on one single span structural supports of the railway bridge, in order to examine the possibility of reduction of the LED luminaires dazzle effect and to examine the compliance.
February 7, 2020	Under implementation	Railway infrastructure manager has accepted recommendation and is planning to implement it in 2021