



Incident Notice

No 54/07, 18 Feb 2008

Incident: Tyre Burst

Description:

The tyre serviceman was making a routine tyre inspection of a Cat 793 haul truck at the request of Control. On inspection the tyre serviceman realised that the position 3 tyre had a bulge on the upper section of the sidewall, and he contacted Control and asked that the truck be sent to the Otraco workshop for the tyre to be changed.

The tyre serviceman then continued checking tyre pressures on other trucks parked up in the area. Whilst checking a tyre on a truck parked to the left, there was a loud bang. It was realised that the position 3 tyre with the bulge had burst. A section of tyre sidewall was located 3 metres from the burst tyre. No injuries were incurred.

Lesson & Corrective Action:

The investigation revealed that the operator had reported to Control at 0730hrs that the tyre had a visible separation on the tyre sidewall and required a 'catch-up' inspection. However, there was a delay in communication and Control did not advise Otraco until 1055hrs to check the tyre whilst the operator stopped for lunch. It is likely that if the report was made earlier then the incident may not have occurred.

A split in the inner liner of the tyre allowed air into the structure of the tyre building up pressure until a weak spot is found to form a bulge which then burst. Refer to figures 1 and 2.

Recommended actions from the investigation included:

- Reinforce to all operators the importance of pre-start checks and the immediate reporting of any defects.
- Review Otraco bubble procedure.
- Investigate the use of a tyre 'spike' that can be used to safely deflate any tyres found with a bulge in them and that can not be safely deflated by other means.

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Figure 1: Split in the inner liner of position 3 tyre



Figure 2: Sidewall of position 3 tyre where burst occurred

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