

Bulletin of General Information
Derailment of a wagon of a freight train
Belsele/Sinaai
9th May 2019

GENERAL INFORMATION

Nature of the event:

Derailment of a bogie of the 9th wagon of a freight train of the railway undertaking LINEAS.

Type of event and safety investigation:

Accident with safety investigation.

On-going investigation.

Date and time of the event:

Thursday 9 May 2019, around 08:45 am.

Place of the event:

Line 59 between Belsele and Sinaai.

Train:

E52903 : electric locomotive and 18 wagons.

Victims:

None.

Damages and consequences:

Damages between kilometre markers 27.700 and 31.100 approximately:

- Damaged sleepers;
- Damages to several level crossings;
- Damages to elements of the signalling system;
- Damages to the platforms of the unmanned stations of Belsele and Sinaai;
- Damages to goods of third parties.

The concerned wagon is also damaged.

Train delays and cancellations are recorded.



FACTS

On Thursday, 9 May 2019, freight train E52903 of the railway undertaking LINEAS is riding between Antwerpen-Noord and Gent-Zeehaven: it is composed of an electric locomotive and 18 wagons. Around 8:43 am, on line 59, near the town of Belsele, the first axle of the first bogie of the 9th wagon breaks.

The driver does not feel or notice this breakage: the train continues its journey.

As a result of this breakage, parts of the wagon are dragged, and various elements of the infrastructure are damaged (sleepers, level crossings, signalling elements). Ballast is also projected and causes damages to third party properties.

At Sinaai station, the 9th wagon - which is crabbing - scrapes elements of the structure of the platforms, causing significant damages.

Around 8:45 am, in his driver's cab, the driver feels that the evolution of his train is not usual and he activates the locomotive cameras towards the rear of the train and he sees the images of the derailed wagon. He immediately stops his train (about 4.5km further than the point where the axle breaks) and launches a GSM-R alarm.

INVESTIGATION

According to the first analyses, the direct cause of the derailment is the breakage of the axle. The investigation is ongoing to determine the indirect factors, including the causes of this breakage.



Investigation Body for Railway Accidents and Incidents
<http://www.mobilit.belgium.be>

