

Safety Notice

Collision between a train and an agricultural vehicle
on a level crossing
Hasselt - 26/06/2026

REPORT VERSION TABLE

Version number	Subject of revision	Date
1.0	Firstversion	09/07/2026

For ease of reading, the masculine form is used to refer to certain roles, but these terms apply to all people.

Any use of this notice with a different aim than of accident prevention - for example in order to attribute liability - individual or collective blame in particular - would be a complete distortion of the aims of this notice, the methods used to assemble it, the selection of facts collected, the nature of questions posed and the ideas organising it, to which the notion of liability is unknown. The conclusions which could be deduced from this would therefore be abusive in the literal sense of the term.

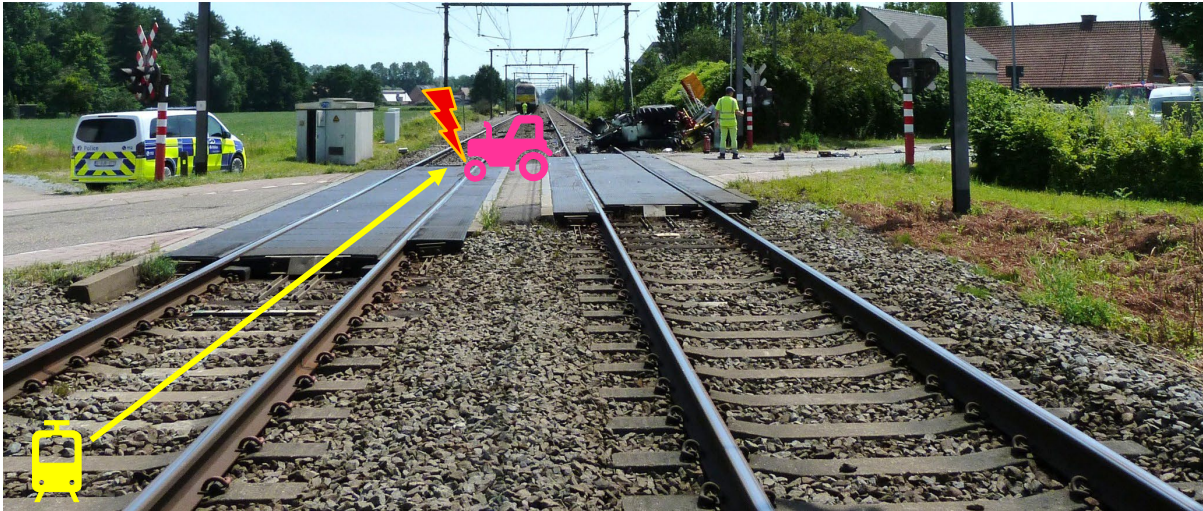
In case of contradiction between certain words and terms, it is necessary to refer to the Dutch version.

1. Facts

On 26 June 2026, at around 10:11 a.m., an agricultural vehicle broke down on level crossing 70 on Spalbeekstraat in Hasselt. The driver tried in vain to start the vehicle. When the level crossing installation was activated, he left the vehicle.

An SNCB/NMBS passenger train approached the level crossing at a speed of 123 km/h. The train driver noticed the obstacle and performed an emergency braking 235 metres in rear of the level crossing. He kept sounding the horn right up to the level crossing.

Despite the emergency braking, the train still passed the level crossing at a speed of around 95 km/h and collided with the agricultural vehicle. Upon impact, the first four-wheel bogie derailed. The train eventually came to a standstill 316 metres in advance of the level crossing.



2. Circumstances of the event

2.1. Geographical situation

Location: Spalbeekstraat in Hasselt (Limburg)



2.2. Weather conditions

At the moment of the accident, the weather was dry and visibility was over 200 metres.

3. Infrastructure involved

3.1. Railway infrastructure

Railway line 35, track A. The reference speed is 140 km/h.

3.2. Road infrastructure

As a local connecting road, Spalbeekstraat is a single carriageway secondary road with one lane in each direction, and it is used by local and agricultural traffic. The maximum speed limit is 50 km/h.

3.3. Level crossing

Level crossing 70 is a public level crossing with automatic active signalling with half-barriers. On both sides of level crossing 70 there are A41 warning signs indicating the presence of a level crossing with barriers.

4. Train involved

SNCB/NMBS passenger train E4909, consisting of two AM80 (Break) railcars 421 + 435, was running from Antwerpen-Centraal to Hasselt. There are 40 passengers on board.

5. Damage and impact

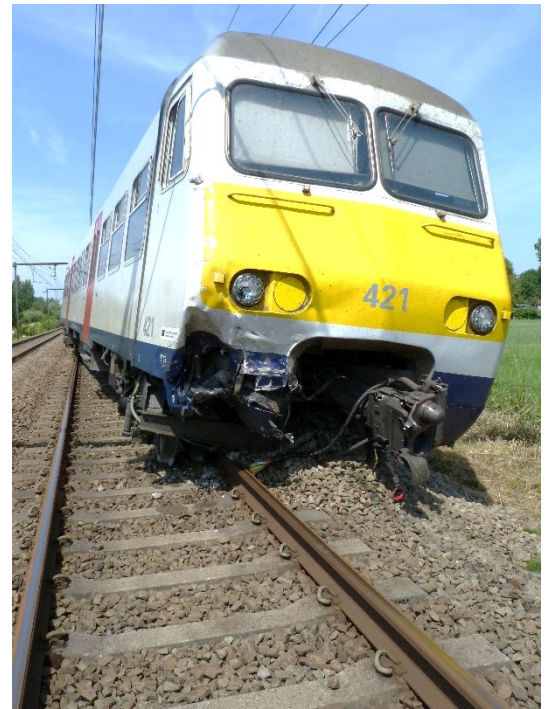
5.1. Physical injuries

There are no injuries or fatalities in the accident.

5.2. Material damage

The collision and derailment have caused significant damage.

- There is damage to the railway infrastructure, including tracks and sleepers along the route travelled after the collision. A barrier is also damaged.
- Severe damage has been identified on AM421, the front railcar. The first bogie is badly damaged and the supporting beam at the bottom is bent. The GF coupler, the coupler support, the polyester front, the brake pipes, power supply cables, electrical enclosures, crossbeams beneath the driver's cab and parts of the ETCS system are also damaged. The driver's cab needs to be repaired or replaced. Further damage may be identified as dismantling continues.
- No damage has been identified on AM435, the second railcar.
- The agricultural vehicle, which is completely wrecked, was leaking fuel oil.



5.3. Impact on train traffic

Train traffic remained suspended in both directions until 27 June 2026 at 06:15 a.m. This led to the following operational impact:

Train type	Cancelled	Delayed (minutes)
Passenger trains	98	76 (697)
Freight trains	-	24 (1417)
International trains	-	3 (7)

6. Conclusions

A level crossing is a junction between road and rail traffic. When a vehicle breaks down on a level crossing, a dangerous situation arises. An approaching train cannot swerve and has a long braking distance, even in the event of an emergency braking. As a result, a train is often unable to come to a standstill in rear of the level crossing in time.

The emergency number 1711 is intended for urgent situations at level crossings, such as a vehicle that has broken down. This number connects you directly to Infrabel traffic control. If necessary, it can suspend train traffic. That is why, as soon as possible after leaving the danger zone, it is important to call 1711 and to provide the details of the level crossing.

7. Important points to note

- If a vehicle breaks down on a level crossing:
 - get yourself to safety: leave the vehicle immediately;
 - move out of the danger zone, away from the tracks;
 - call 1711 immediately and provide the location details shown on the level crossing post, so that traffic control can suspend train traffic.

Rail Accident and Incident Investigation Unit

www.raiiu.be

