

Railway accident investigation report

Railway operator: Sanyo Electric Railway Co., Ltd.
Accident type: Train derailment, accompanied with level crossing accident
Date and time: About 15:48, February 12, 2013
Location: Shinkomae level crossing, category one level crossing, located at around 23,030m from the origin in Sanyo-Akashi station, between Iho station and Arai station, Main Line, Takasago City, Hyogo Prefecture.

SUMMARY

The inbound through limited express 9454H train, six vehicle train set, starting from Himeji station bound for Hanshin Umeda station of Sanyo Electric Railway Co., Ltd., departed at Oshio station on schedule, 15:44, February 12, 2013.

The train driver noticed the obstacle at Shinkomae level crossing while the train was coasting at about 95 km/h between Iho station and Arai station. Immediately, he sound a whistle and applied an emergency brake, but the train collided with the rear of the car carrier trailer truck and the stretch board for loading. After that, the train ran with destroying poles planted in the left side of the up track and the block fence along the track, and collided with the platform of Arai station and stopped.

The front part of the train was completely demolished. The front bogie of the front vehicle was separated from the vehicle body and its first axle derailed to the left of the rail and the second axle derailed inside the track. The all axles of the rear bogie of the front vehicle and the all axles of the front bogie of the second vehicle derailed to the right of rail. The all axles of the rear bogie of the second vehicle derailed as the left wheels were raised up from the rail. There were about 60 passengers, a train driver and a conductor on board the train. The train driver was seriously injured and 15 passengers were slightly injured. In addition, the drivers of the freight truck and a taxi collided with the freight truck were slightly injured.

PROBABLE CAUSES

It is considered probable that the accident occurred by the inbound through limited express train derailed to the left of the up-track because the train collided with the load carrying platform of the freight truck and ran onto its stretch board for loading, which was lowered to cross the railway track, at the same time, when the train passed the Sinkomae level crossing, in this accident.

It is considered probable that the rear portion of the freight truck had been staying inside the level crossing because the the truck driver drove the truck into the level crossing road, without noticing that the sedan ahead his truck might stopped at the road between the level crossing and the intersection ahead, and the truck was obliged to stop behind the sedan stopped at the intersection.

It is considered probable that the stretch board for loading was lowered to cross the railway track because the truck driver had lowered them in the level crossing road to forward the truck without damaged the crossing rod because the truck driver had considered if the truck had forwarded with the stretch board for loading was set at vertical position, the stretch board would fell down in the level crossing and would contact with the train, furthermore, he judged that the truck could be forwarded because the sedan stopped at the intersection in front of the truck seemed to move forward.