

Railway accident investigation report

Railway operator : West Japan Railway Company

Accident type : Level crossing accident

Date and time : About 15:19, August 26, 2015

Location : Kagitani Dai-Ichi level crossing, class four level crossing without automatic barrier machine nor road warning device, located at around 266,701 m from the origin at Kobe station, between Shiraichi station and Nishitakaya station, double track, San-yo Line, Higashi-Hiroshima City, Hiroshima Prefecture

SUMMARY

On Wednesday, August 26, 2015, while the inbound local 1558M train, started from Iwakuni station bound for Shiraichi station, San-yo Line of West Japan Railway Company, running at a velocity of about 73 km/h, between Nishitakaya station and Shiraichi station, the train driver noticed the light motor truck entering into Kagitani Dai-Ichi level crossing, class four level crossing, and took an emergency brake, but the train collided with the light motor truck.

The driver of the light motor truck was dead by the accident.

PROBABLE CAUSES

It is certain that the accident occurred as the train collided with the light motor truck that had entered into Kagitani Dai-Ichi level crossing, class four level crossing, in the situation that the train was approaching.

It is probable that the driver of the light motor truck moved the truck into Kagitani Dai-Ichi level crossing in the situation that the train was approaching, because the light motor truck driver did not correctly recognize the approaching train, although it is probable that he once stopped the truck just before the level crossing and confirm absence of trains, however, it could not be determined precise reasons because the truck driver was dead.

As the truck driver did not correctly recognize the approaching train, it is somewhat likely that the difficulties in confirming approaching train by the truck driver, from the position of the one stop position at the entrance of the level crossing due to trees, signboards etc., were effected.