



Ref: RSR/GP/203/MWC0200/16/01/20/ASP0002NTS/602

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22 January 2020

Mr Zwelakhe Mayaba  
Nominated Manager  
PRASA RAIL  
Private Bag x101  
Braamfontein  
2017

Dear Mr. Mayaba

**RAILWAY SAFETY REGULATOR (RSR): IMPROVEMENT DIRECTIVE ISSUED TO PRASA FOR THE NON - AVAILABILITY OF NEW BRAKE BLOCKS IN THE PRASA ROLLING STOCK MAINTENANCE FACILITIES**

1. This Improvement Directive is issued to Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA), in terms of section 36(1)(b) of the National Railway Safety Regulator Act 16 of 2002 as amended ("the RSR Act"), for operating under conditions which are a threat or might be a threat to safe railway operations.
2. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 a team of Railway Safety Regulator (RSR) inspectors conducted an inspection of the PRASA Braamfontein Metro rolling stock maintenance facility, in terms of section 33(1)(a) of the National Railway Safety Regulator Act 16 of 2002, as amended ("the RSR Act"), which provides as follows: "*A railway safety inspector may, at any time, enter or cross property under control of an operator in order to carry out an inspection in respect of railway operations provided for under a safety permit.*"
3. The following were observed during the inspection:
  - 3.1 PRASA has no new brake blocks available or in stock for the replacement of worn brake blocks on their train sets.

OFFICE (MIDRAND): Building 4, Waterfall Point Office Park, Cnr Waterfall and Woodmead Drive, Waterfall City, Midrand, 1685, SOUTH AFRICA  
NORTH REGION: Building 1, Waterfall Point Office Park, Cnr Waterfall and Woodmead Drive, Waterfall City, Midrand, 1685, SOUTH AFRICA  
WESTERN CAPE REGION: 2 Long Street Building, 2 Long Street 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cape Town, 8000, SOUTH AFRICA  
NORTH EAST REGION: Embassy Building (22<sup>nd</sup> Floor), 199 Anton Lembede Street, Durban, 4000, SOUTH AFRICA

Ms Zethu Qunira (Chairperson), Mr Boy Johannes Nobunga (Deputy Chairperson), Ms Tshupo Kgare (Acting CEO), Mr Christiaan Johan de Vos, General Manager Michael Moshale, Ms Hilda Thamiaga Thopola, Major-General Willem Adriaan Venter, Ms Mtombizwe Mbiza, Mr Tabor Szana, Ms Irene Nthulane, Mr Jan-David de Villiers

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4. In view of the above, the Regulator hereby issues an Improvement Directive to PRASA in terms of section 36 of the Act, which provides that *"if a railway safety inspector believes that a condition or activity is a threat or might be a threat to safe railway operations, the railway safety inspector may issue a directive to any person responsible for that condition or activity to the effect that action be taken within a specified time by the person concerned to remove the threat"*.
5. PRASA is hereby directed to provide the RSR with the following:
  - 5.1 PRASA shall develop a permanent solution to provide an adequate amount of new replacement brake blocks at each of their rolling stock maintenance facilities for installation on their rolling stock when the said blocks are worn out.
  - 5.2 PRASA shall keep auditable evidence showing that all train sets that are in use have brake blocks that are within the wear limits.
6. This Improvement Directive does not relieve PRASA of its responsibility to manage the safety of operations and to ensure that actions are taken to eliminate these threats at any other areas on its network.
7. Failure to comply with this Improvement Directive will result in Section 45 of the Act being invoked.
8. You are hereby instructed to complete and submit the attached corrective action plan to the Central Region Compliance Department: E-mail: [rsrcentralregion@rsr.org.za](mailto:rsrcentralregion@rsr.org.za); by no later than the 04 February 2020, detailing actions to be effected.

Yours faithfully

Deon  
Bouwer

Digitally signed by Deon  
Bouwer  
DN: cn=Deon Bouwer,  
ou=Railway Safety Regulator,  
o=RSR,  
c=ZA  
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**DEON BOUWER PR Techni Eng  
INSPECTOR; CENTRAL REGION COMPLIANCE**

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