



Media release: Rail and Maritime Transport Union
Friday March 7, 2014

Tougher asbestos rules needed

The Rail and Maritime Transport Union is renewing its call for better regulations on the use of asbestos.

The union met with KiwiRail yesterday on the investigations into asbestos in the network of DL locomotives.

“These locomotives shouldn’t have been built with asbestos in them. That was clear in the service contract. But it doesn’t surprise us that there were problems, we have had quality concerns with Chinese manufactured rail gear including both the DL locomotives and the flat top wagons,” said Wayne Butson, General Secretary, Rail & Maritime Transport Union.

“New Zealand needs to follow Australia’s lead and ban the importation of asbestos containing products totally. Our weak labelling-only approach is hopeless.”

“Australia has had [a ban since 2004](#) on the importation, manufacture and use of all forms of asbestos and asbestos containing products.”

“There is no reason why we shouldn’t do so as well,” Wayne Butson said.

Ends.

For further comment:

Wayne Butson, General Secretary, Rail & Maritime Transport Union, on 027 496 2461

Note – please see also the joint KiwiRail and RMTU media release: [Locomotive Testing Results Received](#), issued from KiwiRail communications this evening.