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No.C.432/Mktg/Parcels/Safety

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Sr.DCMs/SC, HYB, BZA, GTL, GNT, NED

Sub: Precautions for prevention of fire incidence in the Luggage Vans (SLRs)/Parcel Vans (VPs) of Passenger carrying trains.

Ref: Railway Board's letter No.2004/TC (FM)/11/14 dt.10-4-2006.

1. One leased Parcel Van No. ER 218640 by Train No.12721 HYB-NZM Dakshin Express caught fire, while on run at Bibinagar (BN) station at 00.29 hrs of 03-7-2022 and the consignments in parcel van were totally destroyed due to fire. The cause of fire in the Parcel Van is yet to be ascertained. In order to ensure non-recurrence of such incidents, certain basic precautions are required to be taken by the parcel staff while loading/unloading of leased/non-leased SLRs/VPs.

2. In this connection, Divisions are hereby advised to re-iterate the instructions of Railway Board to all concerned parcel staff for taking remedial steps/precautions for prevention/ recurrence of fire incidence in Luggage Vans (SLRs)/Parcel Vans (VPs) of passenger carrying trains:

- Rules contained in Para Nos.505 and 506 of IRCA Coaching Tariff No.25, Part I (Volume I) regarding booking of explosives, dangerous, inflammable articles, empty gas cylinders, dry grass and leaves, waste paper, acids, corrosive substances enumerated in Red Tariff must not be booked as luggage by passenger trains.
- In case of leased parcel traffic, the copy of manifest must be submitted at the Parcel Office by the Leaseholders/ representatives before commencement of loading in the leased SLR/VP.
- Parcel clerk should accept the manifest signed only by the Leaseholders/ representatives of the Lease holders, duly verifying the photo-identity cards issued by Divisional Commercial Officers.
- Railway Parcel Staff should ensure that the manifest submitted by the lease holder contains detailed description of contents of the packages instead of general description. For this purpose, the detailed statement of contents in the packages loaded should be submitted along with the manifest.
- Only those labour in possession of valid photo ID cards, issued by the lease holder or his representative and counter signed by CPSR/SS, should be permitted for loading/unloading the leased SLR/VP.

- Railway Parcel Staff & Leaseholders should exercise proper supervision to ensure that all consignments are evenly loaded in SLR/VP.
- Adequate space must be left between the roof and top layer of packages loaded in SLRs/VPs to avoid contact with ceiling and electrical lamps. After completion of the loading, lights provided must be switched off to eliminate the possibility of short circuit.
- In case two wheelers are loaded in the leased SLR/VP, the leaseholder should invariably mention the two wheeler number in the manifest, duly certifying that there is no residual petrol left in two wheeler. The on-duty Parcel clerk should countersign in the manifest, duly ensuring that there is no residual petrol left in the two-wheeler.
- If packing of two-wheelers is done by the railway authorized agent/contractor, he should certify on the forwarding note (in case of non-lease traffic) and on the manifest (in case of lease traffic), that there is no residual petrol left in the two-wheeler.
- In case of non-leased SLR/VP, the on duty Parcel clerk should ensure that there is no residual petrol in the two-wheeler before accepting the same for booking.
- The railway parcel staff should conduct random checks on the motor bikes transported through leased/non-leased SLRs/VPs, for presence of any residual fuel duly maintaining a record of such checks in a register.
- After completion of loading, concerned railway parcel clerk should check inside the SLR/VP to ensure that any hazardous/inflammable/offensive or other such prohibited goods are not loaded in the leased/non-leased parcel space to avoid creating unsafe conditions for passengers and railway property.
- Before sealing the lease SLR/VP, the concerned parcel clerk should ensure that the actual weight of the leased packages after weighment does not exceed the total weight of the packages mentioned in the manifest. In case of any variation, the actual weighment should be indicated in the manifest by the parcel staff and the same should be communicated to the next intermediate loading station. A copy of the revised manifest should be kept near the door in the leased SLR/VP.
- After ensuring the above, the leased SLR/VP shall be padlocked by the lease holder or his representative and shall be sealed by the parcel clerk within the permitted stoppage time of the train.

3. Divisions are also advised to launch a campaign including arranging Safety Seminars with parcel leaseholders, handling agents and parcel staff to avoid fire accidents and loss to Railway property.

Action taken on the above may be advised to this office.



(Dr. B S Christopher) 7/7/2022
Chief Commercial Manager (FS)