


## SAFETY ALERT

<b>SYSTEM/ EQUIPMENT</b>	Composite brake blocks in winter conditions	
<b>SAFETY ISSUE DESCRIPTION</b>	Finnish operator VR Group Ltd has noticed that composite brake blocks aren't working properly especially in severe winter conditions. Braking performance has diminished and the braking/stopping distances have become longer, in some cases even dangerously. Partial loss of braking performance is not systematic but more sudden and unpredictable in nature.	
<b>CIRCUMSTANCES</b> <i>(e.g. special weather conditions)</i>	Snps and Snpss wagons are used to transport timber. Wagons are equipped with brake blocks C333 in K16 bogie assembly. Wagons have been in use for about eight years. During this period wagons have had issues with braking, most severe issue being lack of braking power in certain winter conditions. The braking power issue has recently worsened when these wagons have been used to form whole trains. Previously the trains had also older wagons with cast iron brake blocks in them. Almost all of the occurrences have been reported in wintertime in the northernmost part of Finland.	
<b>REASON FOR ISSUE</b>	Heat dissipation from the block seems not to be sufficient to melt the ice and snow between the block and wheel. Due to lower friction coefficient of the block, the braking force applied to block is lower which also makes it more difficult to remove ice and snow from between the block and wheel.	
<b>LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS</b> <i>(e.g. PHOTOS, LINKS)</i>	ANNEX 1. VR presentation "Winter conditions and composite brake blocks"	
<b>LINKED WITH OCCURRENCE NOTIFIED TO ERA DATABASE?</b>	Choose an item.	<b>LINK TO ERA NOTIFICATION</b>  Click here to enter text.
	<b>OCCURRENCE DATE</b> Click here to enter a date.	

## ISSUER

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