

## INTERPRETATION OF WHEEL / RAIL WEAR NUMBERS

The Research Division has years of experience on the basics of wheel and rail wear in vehicle curving. A theoretical predictive method for wear based on non-linear curving was developed. Progress in this area has enabled the best wear number to be established. Large volumes of laboratory and field wear data have enabled conversion from a theoretical number to a measure of the amount of material removed.

The report was written as a simple guide to users of wear numbers. Some fundamentals of wheel/rail wear are briefly reviewed in order to illustrate some important 'do's' and 'don'ts' in manipulation of output numbers. Conversion factors to absolute wear rates are included for component life or cost estimates.