

Dear Readers,

The subject of 2024's first issue Railway Reports, vol. 201, covers rail freight and material issues. It also refers to the possibilities of using RFID technology in the area of freight management and control-command and signalling.

The first article, by M. Graff, is devoted to factors influencing the use of regional rail transport based on the example of the Lubelskie Voivodeship. The author attributed particular importance to infrastructural factors. Prepared by a team of Materials & Structure Laboratory staff (I. Miłkaszewicz, R. Bińkowski, J. Michalik, M. Szymański), the second article examines how the structure of the rail running surface determines the formation of cracks. The authors proposed a method of determining the susceptibility of this surface to the formation of rail defects.

The third article, by J. Moczarski, describes potential applications of RFID technology. This solution is increasingly used in various industries. This is because it makes it possible to identify and locate moving objects and facilitates the automation of processes and their control.

The next article is devoted to the impact of vibrations generated by high-speed railways. K. Polak characterises the main sources of vibrations and determines their negative effects on various elements of the environment.

The last article, by I. Tarki, D. Milczarek and A. Świetlik from the Materials & Structure Laboratory, is devoted to materials and products that do not meet fire protection requirements but must be approved for use in rail vehicles due to functional necessity.

The presented overview of the contents of vol. 201 is a testament to the diversity of research issues related to modern rail transport.

Wishing you an interesting read

Editor-in-Chief
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