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Concern for the environment: a permanent responsibility.

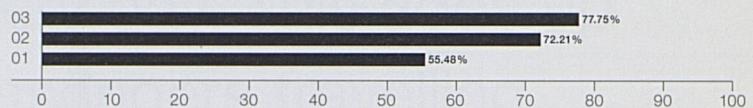
SBB is an environment-friendly company. This is not only our strength, it is also our duty. Our environmental efficiency was significantly improved in 2003.

SBB's environmental policy is designed to further increase the advantage that rail has over other forms of transport. This is the function of the company's internal rail environment centre and its network in the various divisions and business units. In the year under review SBB met 89 % of its energy requirement with hydroelectric power. Energy consumption in relation to transport output continues to decline – more sharply for passenger traffic than for freight.

Less noise. SBB is working to achieve further increases in its environmental efficiency, and this had tangible effects in the year under review. Infrastructure and rolling stock-based measures to reduce noise continued according to schedule. A further 21.4 kilometres of sound-insulating walls had been built by the year-end. 142 older passenger carriages were retrofitted for noise reduction, bringing the total number of carriages with quieter brakes to over 700 as at end-2003. These are in addition to the newer fleets of low-noise disc-braked carriages. 78 % of our rolling stock now qualifies as "low-noise". The proportion of low-noise freight wagons is also ahead of expectations. Refitting the entire fleet of freight wagons with low-noise brake-lining inserts will begin during 2004. A total of CHF 31 million was spent on noise reduction in 2003, thanks to a special credit from the Confederation.

Priority to legacy pollution. Over 4,300 sites have now been identified, subjected to a preliminary examination and entered in the pollution register. About 700 sites need to be investigated in greater depth, and this will be completed by the end of 2004. Provisions of CHF 110 million were formed for this work, CHF 20 million of which has been drawn down so far.

Percentage of low-noise vehicles.



Asbestos problem addressed. To deal with the asbestos problem, in-depth investigations have been carried out to identify buildings, rolling stock and facilities in which asbestos was used in the past. Passenger carriages affected will be taken out of service in the next few years. Asbestos-containing components in other rolling stock are being replaced in the course of normal maintenance work. These materials do not expose passengers to any hazards.

War on waste. Newspapers left in trains and stations are a growing problem for SBB. In 2002 these added up to 4,200 tonnes of waste paper. Since 2002 SBB has been involved in the national "einfach retour" anti-litter campaign that calls on the population to dispose of rubbish appropriately. In 2003 the quantity of waste paper fell to 3,880 tonnes. Since the beginning of 2004 an experiment has been going on at several major stations in which special bins for newspapers are placed on the platforms.

This year SBB will publish a new environmental report with detailed information on developments in individual areas. The last environmental report in 2000/2001 can be ordered or downloaded from www.sbb.ch/umwelt.