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SBB Cargo modernise their Shunters

Keith Scotland



Modernised Tm 232 118-0.

PHOTO: SBB



Un-modernised 9667 Tm iv 9667 at Biel
03.09.08. PHOTO: Keith Scotland



Un-modernised Tm iv 9660 at Biel 03.09.08.
PHOTO: Keith Scotland

As well as taking delivery of new electric shunters from Stadler, as reported in the last *Swiss Express*, SBB Cargo is modernising their fleet of two-axle Tm iv diesel shunters. These are used for wagon-load freight shunting, and moving rolling stock into and around their customers' premises.

The shunting locos were originally built in two batches by SLM between 1970 and 1978. Numbers 8751 to 8797 will be renumbered Tm 232.1 while 9651 to 9685 will be Tm 232.2. These locomotives have hydraulic transmission, weigh 30 tonnes, are 7.67 m long, and have a top speed of 60 kph. The initial order is for 23 locos to be overhauled at the workshops at Biel / Bienne by mid 2010. The modernisation is intended to prolong their life by another 20 years. On the 4th August 2009, the first rebuilt loco, Tm 232 118-0 was handed over to SBB Cargo. The initial batch of modernised locos, with their old and new numbers, are:

8768 – Tm 232 118-0	8760 – Tm 232 110-7
8789 – Tm 232 139-6	8781 – Tm 232 131-3
9680 – Tm 232 230-3	9653 – Tm 232 203-0
9673 – Tm 232 223-8	9675 – Tm 232 225-3

The rest of the batch to be converted will be selected according to any machine's technical problem or need for a heavy overhaul. The work has not changed the overall dimensions or weight of the locos; the frames; buffers; mechanical brake; wheels or their final drive. The original MAN R8V 16/18 280kn diesel engines are being replaced with new Caterpillar C13 diesels that have electronic controls. New stainless steel exhaust pipes and air tanks are also being fitted and the locos are being completely repainted in the current SBB Cargo livery. The control systems are all new, including touch screen diagnostics for tracing faults; particle filters on the exhaust systems; new heating and cooling systems for the cabs; the facility for remote radio control; energy saving systems and completely new wiring systems, amongst the other updates and modifications.