3 General Information / History & Preservation of Evidence:

The following information, if available, assists us in a more reliable reconstruction of events and sometimes shortens the length / reduces the overall cost of an investigation:

3.1 Eye-witness accounts, videos, photographs, thermal images, service history / records, reports of problems, malfunctions / failures / field repairs / modifications.

3.2 All witness statements.

3.3 A time line of events, prior to- and directly after the loss.

3.4 A detailed service history including modifications and field repairs.

3.5 A detailed list of all after-market installations and history of problems / malfunctions.

3.6 The driver / operator and key witnesses must be available for an (on-site) interview/questioning at the time of the investigation, and possibly thereafter.

3.7 Preservation of evidence is extremely important during investigations, and it is therefore recommended not to move machinery from the site of the loss, if possible.

3.8 The evidence shall not be disturbed, and the machine shall not be stripped without consultation of the investigator / investigation team.

3.9 The machine shall be secured to prevent theft and vandalism (typically theft of copper and electrical cables) prior to- and during the investigation.

3.10 In the event of likely litigation for recovery, the evidence shall be preserved as-is in order to provide other interested parties access to undisturbed evidence. Alternately a joint investigation with all interested parties shall be performed.

3.11 In the event of suspected arson (a fire originating / existing when the vehicle is stationary), a soil / surface sample collected in the broad area below components suffering the severe heat exposure (to their undersides), is required.

3.12 In a dry climate, this sample shall be collected not longer than two weeks after the incident. In a wet climate, this sample shall be collected not longer than three days after the incident.

3.13 A sample should preferably be kept in a sealed steel or glass container. The above requirement relates to late appointment of a forensic specialist and/or remote locations.

3.14 Exposed organic samples (medium- and long chain hydrocarbons) erode due to weathering and are likely to be completely destroyed after more than two weeks of weathering. Volatile materials have a much shorter lifetime.