



U.S. Department of
Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Task Statement: Minimum Training Standards and Plans

Task No.: 10-01

Date initially presented to the RSAC: March 18, 2010

Purpose: To establish minimum training standards for each class and craft of safety-related railroad employee and their railroad contractor and subcontractor equivalents, as required by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (Act).

Description:

- Assist FRA in developing regulations responsive to the legislative mandate.
- Ensure generally accepted principles of adult learning are employed in training/development and delivery.
- Determine a reasonable method for submission and FRA review of training plans which takes human resource limitations into account.
- Establish reasonable oversight criteria to ensure training plans are effective, using the operational tests and inspections requirements of 49 CFR Part 217 as a model.

Issues requiring specific report:

- What criteria should be used to determine which training programs, previously required by FRA, might be exempted from these new minimum standards?
- What training methodologies should be employed to ensure that current employees understand which tasks are covered by Federal laws, regulations, and orders, as well as the railroad rules and procedures which implement them?
- What criteria can be developed for the regulated community to determine which safety-related tasks require on-the-job training for new employees?
- Should annual proficiency checks be established for all safety-related railroad employees, similar to those required for locomotive engineers and conductors? Could periodic training intervals be extended if such checks were used?

Source: 49 U.S.C. § 20162, as enacted by section 401 of Division A, Public Law No. 110-432.

Refer to/establish following working group: Training Standards and Plans Working Group

Target Dates: Report recommendations for proposed or interim final rule (as determined by FRA in consultation with the Office of the Secretary of Transportation and the Office of Management and Budget) by March 31, 2011.

Disposition: Accepted

Date: 18 March, 2010