



U.S. Department of
Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

**Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Task Statement:
Operational Testing for Securement of Rolling Equipment**

Task No. 13-04

Date initially presented to the RSAC: August 29, 2013

Purpose: To enhance safety by confirming that appropriate processes and procedures are in place to ensure that unattended trains and vehicles on mainline tracks or mainline sidings outside of yards or terminals are properly secured against unintended movement by ensuring that proper operational testing is conducted regarding securement of unattended equipment.

Background: Existing Federal regulations at 49 CFR Part 217 require that railroads conduct operational tests to determine the extent of employees' compliance with railroad operating rules, and particularly those rules that are most likely to cause the most accidents or incidents.

Description:

- Review 49 CFR § 217.9
- Review FRA Emergency Order No. 28, Notice No. 1
- Review Safety Advisory 2013-06
- Review and evaluate current railroad operational testing practices for securement-related rules compliance, and determine whether current operational testing practices are sufficient, in quality, number of the operational tests performed and type(s) of train tested.

Issues requiring specific report:

- Review operational testing programs and relevant accident and inspection data related to the securement of unattended equipment to determine whether it is appropriate to increase the frequency of, or to otherwise enhance, operational tests performed. If appropriate, develop recommended guidance document or regulatory language.
- Review whether operational tests related to securement are conducted under all operational conditions, and whether the results of such operational tests are accurately recorded. If appropriate, develop recommended guidance document or regulatory language.

Other Issues:

Refer to/establish following working group: Operating Rules Working Group

Target Dates: Report recommendations to the Committee by April 1, 2014.

Disposition:

Accepted Date: