



Railroad Safety Advisory Committee



Electronic Device Distraction Working Group Update

to

The 45th Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

December 8, 2011
Washington, DC



RSAC Task Statement: Preventing Railroad Employee Distractions Caused by Personal Electronic Devices



- RSAC Task No: 11-01 May 20, 2011
- Purpose: To prescribe mitigation strategies, programs and processes for governing the use of personal electronic devices which could cause distractions to railroad employees engaged in safety critical activities.



Description:

- Congress required the Secretary of Transportation to complete a study on the safety impact of the use of personal electronic devices
 - The 2008 RSIA authorized the Secretary to prohibit the use of personal electronic devices
 - 49 CFR 220 Part C regulations covered the use of personal electronic devices by certain employees as defined in Part C and was published Sept 27, 2010 (75 FR 59602).
 - This working group will explore additional methods to achieve compliance through education, peer to peer intervention, counseling and other cooperative, non-regulatory/punitive methods.
 - Review previous and current programs that improve compliance with rules and improve safety performance such as Clear Signal for Action (CSA).
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Working Group Meeting

October 25, 26, 2011 Washington DC



CONSENSUS: Substantive Agreement on Approach:

- Peer to Peer will be handled by FRA one on one with properties that wish to participate.
 - Projects will be cross functional in membership, i.e., labor, management and FRA. Labor requested an assurance that they would be able to select their members that participate on sites.
 - Working Group will review and make recommendations on the following:
 - Recommendations on what an outreach education program would look like
 - Recommendations on method of delivery to the employees
 - Recommendations on content of materials.
 - Evaluation of the program for effectiveness.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** AAR will provide a document for the Working Group's information on what's prohibited across the industry and where permissive uses exist. Policies differ across railroads. (Document received and posted on RSAC site)
 - **CONSENSUS** -After some discussion the Working Group determined it was appropriate to establish a Task Force to develop information for the Working Group (Task Force established and had first web meeting Nov. 21, 2011)
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AAR Supplied Matrix Sample

(Complete Matrix on RSAC website)



29-Nov-11		Personal Electronic Device Matrix - Summary of Current Practices								
All Employees		Amtrak	BNSF	CN	CP	CSX	KCS	NS	UP	
Aboard Controlling Locomotive	Use While Moving Prohibited by Rule	Use is prohibited			NO		X	Prohibited	prohibited	
	Use While Stationery / Safety-Related Activity Prohibited by Rule	Use is prohibited			NO		X	Prohibited	prohibited	
	Use While Stationery - No Safety-Related Activity	Voice function can be used for duties if radio communication has failed (or isn't required) or to address emergency situation, after job briefing.	Y		YES	Y		Allowed	Voice only	
Aboard Trailing Unit - Deadheading	While Moving	May use if no interference with any employee's safety related duties.	Y		YES	N		Prohibited	Voice only	
	While Stationary	May use if no interference with any employee's safety related duties.	Y		YES	Y		Allowed	Voice only	



Task Force

Meeting Nov 21, 2011



Focus - Two main subject areas:

1. Prohibited use of Electronic Devices
2. Allowed use of Electronic Devices

PROHIBITED SITUATIONS TOP THREE

- At controls of moving vehicle
 - Within the operating envelope
 - Engaged in Switching or Riding Equipment
 - In foul of track on foot
 - Involved in movement or work authority
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Task Force

Web Meeting Nov 21, 2011



Discussed and Selected elements to include in Outreach Program.

- Target Audience – All railroad employees.
- Explain dangers of distraction -
- Use posters, emails, stickers, decals, FRA web site w/videos, union web sites, union meetings, power points to be used in briefings.
- Make these communications bi-directional – allow employees to provide feedback with personal experiences, suggestions, testimonials from workers on accidents and near misses. etc.

Action Item:

- Team members to propose specific messages targeted at one or more of the top three prohibited situations
 - Next call – Dec. 12, 2011
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Next steps



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- Working group next meeting January 11-12
 - Review deliverables from Task Force
 - Draft Outreach Program Outline
 - Draft Outreach Implementation Plan
 - Draft Evaluation Plan
 - Draft Outreach materials
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