



U.S. Department of  
Transportation

Federal Railroad  
Administration

**Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Task Statement:  
Preventing Railroad Employee Distractions Caused by Personal Electronic Devices**

**Task No.: 11-01**

**Date initially presented to the RSAC: 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 by safety-related railroad employees by October 16, 2009, and to report to Congress on the results of the study.
- The 2008 RSIA authorized the Secretary to prohibit the use of personal electronic devices that may distract employees from safely performing their duties based on the conclusions of the required study.
- 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).

**Issues requiring specific report:**

- What criteria should be used to determine the most effective programs/methods of dissemination and compliance?
- What are the desired outcomes/objectives of these programs/methods?
- Identify parameters of both prohibited and permissive use of personal; electronic devices.
- Who will develop the program to achieve the outcomes/objectives?
- Who will institute and control the program?
- How will the compliance and program efficacy be evaluated and monitored?
- How much will this program cost?
- When will all safety critical railroad employees be educated/trained through this program?

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 20102-20103, 20103, note, 20107, 21301-21302, 20701-20703, 21304, 21311; 28 U.S.C. 2461, note; and 49 CFR 1.49.

**Establish following working group:** Personal Electronic Device Distraction Mitigation Working Group

**Target Dates:** Report recommendations for proposed mitigation plans and strategies by Aug 15, 2012.

**Disposition:**

**Accepted Date:**