

Medical Standards Working Group Report

**Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Meeting
December 14, 2010**

Medical Standards Working Group Report

Task 06–03 Medical Standards for Safety-Critical Personnel

Task 09-02 Critical Incident Response Plans, Sec 410 RSIA

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Activities & progress:

Since the last WG report on September 23, 2010:

- ✓ The MS WG held 1 meeting: October 25 – 26, 2010
- ✓ The Physicians TF held 1 meeting: November 18 -19, 2010

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Substantial progress: Necessary revisions are being made to -

- Specify who must undergo required medical assessments and the medical conditions to be assessed.
- Specify appropriate dispute resolution procedures.
- Reduce burdens placed on covered employers (i.e., railroads and contractors) and employees.
- Improve safety – by reducing the risk that covered employees will experience sudden incapacitation, or serious impairments in their abilities to see and hear, while performing safety-critical service.
- Make a proposed rule cost-effective.

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Current position:

- ✓ Safety-critical employees who must undergo required medical assessments: [limited to]
 - Locomotive engineers who must be certified by regulation [Part 240]
 - Conductors who must be certified by regulation [Part 242 in draft]

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Current position:

- ✓ Medical assessments are to be limited to assessments of specified medical conditions that cause:
 - sudden incapacitation
 - and
 - serious impairments of vision and hearing

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Current position: Prescription and OTC medications

- ✓ Medical assessment for adverse medical effects of medications (e.g., sedating effects) that interfere with the safe performance of safety-critical service will be:
 - regulated under Section 103 of Part 219, Control of Alcohol & Drug Use (not under the medical rule).
 - the responsibility of employees covered under Part 219 and their treating physician (without requirement for assessment and certification by a railroad physician).

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Action Items: Physicians Task Force

Continue to:

- ✓ refine the list of medical conditions that cause sudden incapacitation and serious impairments of hearing or vision.
- ✓ refine elements of “health history” to be included in a Health History Form that covered employees will complete.
- ✓ refine the medical criteria (standards) which a covered employee must meet to be certified.

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Action Items: Industry and Labor

- ✓ Invited to update positions and submit proposed text for sections of the rule, especially dispute resolution.

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Action Items: FRA Team

- ✓ Review and consider stakeholder positions concerning issues relevant to the rule such as minimum/uniform standards and dispute resolution.
- ✓ Make decisions and propose draft text that address outstanding issues.
- ✓ Incorporate “medical assessment process” and “medical examiner text” presented at last WG meeting into working draft rule.
- ✓ Distribute updated rule text for WG review and comment.

WG Report: Critical Incident Response Task 09-02

NPRM – Require each Class I railroad, intercity passenger railroad, and commuter railroad develop an approved critical incident response plan which offers appropriate support services to an employee affected by a critical incident as required in Section 410 of the RSIA.

WG Report: Critical Incident Response Task 09-02

Progress Report:

- ✓ A request for grant applications was published in the federal register – to study and report on critical incidents, practices, and recommend interventions.
- ✓ Grantee to be nominated for appointment to the Critical Incident Task Force (Established by the WG).
- ✓ DHHS and DOL have designated representatives who have offered to consult with FRA and the TF [RSIA]
- ✓ A TF meeting will be scheduled with Grantee early in 2011. Industry and Labor have been invited to submit positions (e.g., “Critical Incident” definition & elements of plan)

WG Report:

Target dates for completion of tasks:

Medical Standards NPRM	2011
Critical Incident Response NPRM	TBD

Scheduled Meetings (tentative dates):

Medical Standards WG	Second Quarter FY 2011
Physicians TF	Second Quarter FY 2011
Critical Incident TF	TBD

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Thank You for Your Attention