

Medical Standards Working Group Report

**Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Meeting
September 23, 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 last report March 18, 2010

- ✓ The MS WG held 2 meetings - May 24 – May 26
Aug 31 – Sept 1
- ✓ The Doctors TF held 2 meetings - May 19
Aug 16 – Aug 17

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Progress:

- ✓ Necessary revisions are being made to the draft rule which:
 - Prioritize who must undergo required medical assessments,
 - Prioritize which medical conditions are to be assessed,
 - Reduce burdens placed on the railroad industry and covered employees, and
 - Reduce the risk that covered employees may experience sudden incapacitation, or serious impairments in their abilities to see and hear, while performing safety-critical service.

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

Necessary revisions to Parts 240 & 242 would follow:

- ✓ Locomotive engineers and conductors shall meet the medical criteria in Part 226 [Medical Standards Rule].
- ✓ Procedures in Part 226 [Medical Standards Rule] will be used to resolve disputes about whether a person meets the medical criteria for certification as a locomotive engineer or conductor.

[No appeal to LERB or CERB on this specific medical issue]

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Current position:

- ✓ Medical assessments are to be limited to assessments for medical conditions that cause:
 - sudden incapacitation (e.g., sleep apnea, narcolepsy, diabetes mellitus, seizure disorders, stroke, transient ischemic attack (TIA), stroke, and cardiovascular disorders)
 - and
 - Serious impairments of vision and hearing

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Current position: Prescription and OTC medications

- ✓ Medical assessment by a railroad physician (RP) for impairing effects of medications will not be required under the proposed medical standards rule.
- ✓ Additional employee responsibilities will be proposed by revision to section 219.103, Use of prescription and OTC medications, to include requirements for medical assessment by a prescribing health care practitioner.

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Action Items:

- ✓ Industry and Labor have agreed to draft proposed text for dispute resolution and submit to FRA and other WG members.
- ✓ FRA has agreed to update the draft rule text to incorporate text agreed upon by WG members, and to propose text for sections of the rule WG members have not been able to agree upon.
- ✓ FRA will distribute the updated draft rule text to WG members for review and comment prior to the next WG meeting.

WG Report: Medical Standards Task 06-03

Action Items: Physicians Task Force

- ✓ Develop a list of medical conditions that cause sudden incapacitation and serious impairments of hearing or vision.
- ✓ Revise the Health History and Medical Examination Form.
- ✓ Revise the medical criteria and protocols to be used to medically assess covered employees to:
 - accommodate changes in the proposed scope of the rule,
 - reduce burdens on industry and employees, and
 - reduce the risk of sudden incapacitation or serious impairment of vision or hearing when in service .

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 Critical Incident Task Force has been established.
- ✓ A request for grant applications was published in the federal register. The grantee will study and report on critical incidents, programs, & interventions.
- ✓ A TF kick-off meeting is being rescheduled to allow for participation of the grantee, and to allow industry and labor time to caucus to prepare for the TF meeting.
- ✓ DHHS and DOL have designated representatives who have offered to consult with FRA and the TF [see RSIA]

WG Report:

Target dates for completion of tasks:

Medical Standards NPRM	2011
Critical Incident Response NPRM	TBD

Scheduled Meetings (tentative dates):

Medical Standards WG	Nov 18 – 19, 2010
Physicians TF	Oct 24 – 26, 2010
Critical Incident TF kick-off meeting	TBD

Medical Standards Working Group Report

Thank You for Your Attention