



Federal Railroad Administration

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee

Track Safety Standards

Working Group Report

October 25, 2007

Track Safety Standards Working Group

February 22, 2006 – the Track Safety Standards Working Group was established.

The WG initial purpose was to review and revise the CWR related provisions of the Track Safety Standards.

Track Safety Standards Working Group

CWR Directives

Resolution of comments on the Interim Final Rule (IFR) pertaining to Inspection of Joints in CWR;

Recommendation regarding FRA's role in oversight of CWR programs, including analysis of data to determine effective management of CWR safety by the railroads.

CWR Tasks

- **Review the Interim Final Rule (IFR) on inspection of joint bars in CWR territory; comment on the IFR; and prepare recommendations for the final rule.**
- **Review FRA Inspection data and the pertinent accident/incident data and reporting criteria.**
- **Evaluate further enhancements for the management of CWR to prevent track buckling and joint failures, including design, maintenance and inspection.**

CWR Joints Final Rule

Part 213.119(g)

The CWR Joint Final Rule was published on October 11, 2006.

The CWR Joint provisions became active on January 1, 2007.

CWR Update

WG initiated discussions in August 2006 to evaluate further enhancements for the management of CWR to prevent track buckling, including design, maintenance and inspection.

CWR Update

Working Group Discussions

Working Group met

- **January 30-31, 2007 in Jacksonville, FL**
- **April 10-11, 2007 in Chicago, IL**
- **June 27-28, 2007 in Ft. Worth, TX**
- **August 15-16, 2007 in Denver, CO**
- **October 23-24, 2007 in Alexandria, VA**

CWR Update

Accident Review Team

An Accident Review Team was organized to review accidents with track Buckling as the primary or secondary cause.

Team conducted numerous phone and in person conferences.

Provided interim report at the January, 2007 meeting in Jacksonville, FL.

Reported final analysis at meeting in Chicago on April 10-11, 2007.

CWR Update

Working Group Discussions

- **Topics discussed by the WG included:**
 - Rail Anchoring Requirements
 - Speed Restriction Criteria
 - Maintaining Desired Rail Installation Temperature Range
 - Inspecting for Curve Movement, and
 - Speed Restrictions for Track Work following mechanized stabilization.

CWR Update

Working Group Discussions

- **Following discussions, the WG organized the CWR Technical Issues Task Force;**
- **The Task Force was charged to review the following nine technical issues:**
 - Rail Anchoring Requirements
 - Speed Restriction Criteria
 - Maintaining Desired Rail Temperature Speed Restrictions when Rail Added below Desired Rail Laying Temperature

CWR Update

Working Group Discussions

- Inspecting for Curve Movement
- Speed Restrictions for Trackwork following Mechanized Stabilization
- Definition of CWR
- Ambient Temperature versus Rail Temperature
- Ballast, and
- Cold Weather Inspections

CWR Update

Working Group Discussions

The CWR Technical Issues Task Force has held multiple meetings.

The Task Force presented their proposals to the full working group in Ft. Worth, TX June 27-28, 2007.

CWR Update

Working Group Discussions

- **The Working Group has reached tentative agreement on six of the Technical issues.**
- **Discussions continued on the remaining three issues during meeting this week.**
- **Draft regulatory language is being discussed**

Track Safety Standards Update

RSAC Assigned Task 07-01 to the Working Group

Purpose: To consider specific improvements to the Track Safety Standards or other responsive actions, supplementing work already on Continuous Welded Rail (CWR).

Track Safety Standards Update

Tasks assigned:

- Review controls applied to reuse of rail in CWR (“plugged rail”)
- Review the issue of cracks emanating from bond wire attachments
- Consider improvements in the Track Safety Standards related to fastenings of rail to concrete ties, and
- Ensure a common understanding within the regulated community concerning requirements for internal rail flaw inspections.

Track Safety Standards Update

The Working Group has not initiated discussions of Task 07-01.

The WG is organizing two Task Groups to act on the four items.

The Rail Task Group will discuss the three rail related items; and

A Concrete Tie Task Group.

Questions and Discussion