



# Federal Railroad Administration

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Railroad Safety Advisory Committee

Track Safety Standards

Working Group Report

June 26, 2007

# **Track Safety Standards Working Group**

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

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

# **Track Safety Standards Working Group**

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## **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

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- **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)**

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

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

# CWR Update

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**WG initiated discussions in August 2007 to evaluate further enhancements for the management of CWR to prevent track buckling, including design, maintenance and inspection.**

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

# **CWR Update**

## **Accident Review Team**

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**Team conducted numerous phone conferences and in person.**

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

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

# **CWR Update**

## **Accident Review Team**

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### **Focus Items**

- **Anchoring**
- **Placing and maintaining proper speed restrictions on disturbed track**
- **Restoring track to neutral temperature/not laid at proper neutral temperature**
- **Railroad engineering standards for the installation and maintenance of CWR track.**

# **CWR Update**

## **Accident Review Team**

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### **Recommendations**

- **Review engineering standards for all areas previously listed.**
- **Review the adequacy of the training procedures for those required to inspect, install and maintain CWR.**

# **CWR Update**

## **Working Group Discussions**

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**Working Group met April 10-11, 2007**

**Received Accident Review Team Report**

**AAR made a presentation to the working group on the Procedures for the Installation, Adjustment, Maintenance and Inspection of CWR by Dr. Andrew Kish.**

# CWR Update

## Working Group Discussions

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- **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

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- **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

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- 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**

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**The CWR Technical Issues Task Force has held multiple meetings.**

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

# **Track Safety Standards Update**

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**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

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## 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**

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

**The WG anticipates initiating work at the August 15-16, 2007 meeting.**

# **Track Safety Standards Working Group Update**

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- **The Working Group will meet on June 27-28, 2007 in Ft. Worth, TX.**
- **The next scheduled meeting date is August 15-16, 2007 in Denver, CO.**

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# Questions and Discussion