



Federal Railroad Administration

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee

Track Safety Standards

Working Group Report

June 26, 2007

Track Safety Standards Working Group

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

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 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Track Safety Standards Working Group Update

- 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.

Questions and Discussion