



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee
Task Statement:
Medical Standards for Safety-Critical Employees

Task No.: 06-03

Date presented to the RSAC: September 21, 2006

Purpose: To enhance the safety of railroad employees and the public by establishing standards and procedures for determining the medical fitness for duty of employees engaged in safety-critical functions.

Description: Review the existing regulations in 49 CFR Part 219 and 49 CFR Part 240, technical bulletins, the 2005 FRA report and updates to that report supplied by FRA, and other sources dealing with medical conditions that impact the safety of transportation systems. Develop proposed rules, including any necessary conforming amendments to 49 CFR Part 219 and 49 CFR Part 240. Determine applicability to employees performing service subject to the Hours of Service Law. Review and recommend resolution of comments on the proposed rule.

Issues requiring specific report:

- Develop proposed FRA standards implementing medical guidelines to provide an industry wide means of determining medical fitness for duty and identifying conditions that could lead to sudden incapacitation or impairment of safety-critical employees.
- Propose the mechanisms for defining and updating the medical guidelines used.
- Propose the procedures for determining the fitness of individual employees.
- Describe record keeping and other arrangements to provide an auditable process that protects medical confidentiality.

Source:

Federal Railroad Administration, National Transportation Safety Board

Refer to/establish following working group: Medical Standards Working Group to be formed.

Target dates:

- By October 15, 2006: stakeholder organizations file expressions of interest and nominations for Working Group members and alternates.
- Periodic: report to the full Committee at each scheduled Committee meeting, including milestones for completion of projects and progress toward completion.
- By [TBD]: report recommendations for a proposed rule.

Disposition/date: