

Recommended Regulatory Changes by the PESS Mechanical Issues Task Force

- I. Handbrake Inspection
- II. Securement of Unattended Equipment
- III. DMU additions to 49 CFR part 229
- IV. Part 229 - MU Definition Clarification

I. Inserts Related to Handbrake Inspection

Insert at:

§ 238.231 Brake system.

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(h) * * *

(3) Except for MU locomotives, on locomotives so equipped, the hand or parking brake as well as its parts and connections shall be inspected, and necessary repairs made, as often as service requires but no less frequently than every 368 days. The date of the last inspection shall be either entered on Form FRA F 6180-49A, suitably stenciled or tagged on the equipment, or maintained electronically provided FRA has access to the record upon request.

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§ 238.307 Periodic mechanical inspection of passenger cars and unpowered vehicles used in passenger trains.

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(c) * * *

(13) The hand or parking brake shall be applied and released to determine that it functions as intended.

(d) At intervals not to exceed 368 days, the periodic mechanical inspection shall specifically include the following:

(1) Inspection of the manual door releases to determine that all manual door releases operate as intended; and

(2) Inspection of the hand or parking brake as well as its parts and connections to determine that they are in proper condition and operate as intended. The date of the last inspection shall be either entered on Form FRA F 6180-49A, suitably stenciled or tagged on the equipment, or maintained electronically provided FRA has access to the record upon request.

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II. Insert related to Securement of Unattended Equipment

Insert § 238.231(h)(4) to read as follows:

§ 238.231 Brake system.

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(h) * *

(4) A train's air brake shall not be depended upon to hold unattended equipment (including a locomotive, a car, or a train whether or not locomotive is attached). For purposes of this section, "unattended equipment" means equipment left standing and unmanned in such a manner that the brake system of the equipment cannot be readily controlled by a qualified person. Unattended equipment shall be secured in accordance with the following requirements:

(i) A sufficient number of hand or parking brakes shall be applied to hold the equipment. Railroads shall develop and implement a process or procedure to verify that the applied hand or parking brakes will sufficiently hold the equipment with the air brakes released;

(ii) Except for equipment connected to a source of compressed air (e.g., locomotive or ground air source), prior to leaving equipment unattended, the brake pipe shall be reduced to zero at a rate that is no less than a service rate reduction;

(iii) At a minimum, the hand or parking brake shall be fully applied on at least one locomotive or vehicle in an unattended locomotive consist or train;

(iv) A railroad shall develop, adopt, and comply with procedures for securing any unattended locomotive required to have a hand or parking brake applied when the locomotive is not equipped with an operative hand or parking brake;

(v) A railroad shall adopt and comply with instructions to address throttle position, status of the reverser lever, position of the generator field switch, status of the independent brakes, position of the isolation switch, and position of the automatic brake valve, or the functional equivalent of these items, on all unattended locomotives. The procedures and instruction shall take into account winter weather conditions as they relate to throttle position and reverser handle; and

(vi) Any hand or parking brakes applied to hold unattended equipment shall not be released until it is known that the air brake system is properly charged.

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III. DMU additions to 49 CFR part 229

Insert at the following:

§ 229.47 Emergency brake valve.

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(b) DMU, MU, and control cab locomotives operated in road service shall be equipped with an emergency brake valve that is accessible to another crew member in the passenger compartment or vestibule. The words "Emergency Brake Valve" shall be legibly stenciled or marked near each valve or shall be shown on an adjacent badge plate.

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§ 229.137 Sanitation, general requirements.

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(b) * * *

(vi) Except as provided in § 229.14 of this part, DMU, MU, and control cab locomotives designed for passenger occupancy and used in intercity push-pull service that are not equipped with sanitation facilities, where employees have ready access to railroad-provided sanitation in other passenger cars on the train at frequent intervals during the course of their work shift.

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IV. Part 229 - MU Definition Clarification

Amend the definition of MU locomotive in § 229.5 to read as follows:

§ 229.5 Definitions.

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MU locomotive means a multiple unit operated electric locomotive –

(1) With one or more propelling motors designed to carry freight or passenger traffic or both; or

(2) Without propelling motors but with one or more control stands and a means of picking-up primary power such as a pantograph or third rail.

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