



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee
Task Statement:
Management of Continuous Welded Rail

Task No.: 05-03

Date presented to the RSAC: October 11, 2005

Purpose:

To reduce derailments and consequent injuries and damage caused by defective conditions, including joint failures, in track using continuous welded rail (CWR).

Description:

- Review Interim Final Rule (IFR) on inspection of joint bars in CWR territory, and comments on the IFR, and advise FRA regarding preparation of a final rule.
- Review pertinent accident/incident data and reporting criteria, railroad CWR programs and engineering standards, and FRA inspection data.
- Evaluate further enhancements for management of CWR to prevent track buckling and joint failures, including design, maintenance and inspection.

Issues requiring specific report:

The committee should consider, and specifically report on, the following issues:

- (1) Actions FRA should take in finalizing the pending rulemaking on prevention and detection of joint failures in CWR territory.
- (2) Suitability of railroad programs for management of CWR.
- (3) Safety enhancements that should be proposed to further improve management of CWR.

Source:

Section 9005(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), (Public Law 109-59, August 10, 2005).
National Transportation Safety Board Recommendations R-04-01, R-04-02.

Refer to/establish following working group: Track Safety Standards Working Group

Target Date:

May 8, 2006: Report working group recommendations to full Committee for item (1) above.

Disposition:

Date: