



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:**