



RAILROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 27, 2004

Passenger Safety Working Group

Charles L. Bielitz, FRA Team Leader

Cindy Gross, Facilitator



Passenger Safety Working Group Overview

- Task statement issued May 20, 2003.
- Working group kick-off meeting held September 9-10, 2003.
- Issues and task forces addressed at meeting of November 6-7.
- Issues for consideration listed, refined, divided into groups, and prioritized.



Passenger Safety Working Group Task Forces

- Four task forces organized:
 - Mechanical Issues and Safety Appliances
 - Crashworthiness and Glazing
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Track-Vehicle Interaction



Passenger Safety Working Group Mechanical & Safety Appliance Issues

- Safety appliance materials and attachment techniques.
- Class 1A brake tests for railroads with 24 hour/day operations.
- Reconciliation of cab signal inspection requirements in Parts 236 and 238.
- Regulatory allowances for MU trains with redundant equipment under Part 229.



Passenger Safety Working Group

More Mechanical & Safety Appliance Issues

- Combining of the calendar day and blue card inspection records.
- Review of the requirements for brake inspections on low slung equipment.
- Priority 2 issues:
 - Cab ergonomics.
 - Baggage car standards.
 - Alerter or deadman features.



Passenger Safety Working Group Crashworthiness and Glazing Issues

- Cab car/MU front end optimization, including collision post and weld strength.
- Seating for engineers in cab cars and MU's.
- Improvements to seat rotation locking system for coach seats.
- Glazing test criteria revision.



Passenger Safety Working Group

More Crashworthiness and Glazing Issues

- Tier II glazing revisions.
- Cab side window glazing standards.
- Priority 2 issues:
 - Enhanced passenger protection in cab cars and MU's.
 - Requirements for remanufactured or rebuilt equipment.
 - Fuel tank compartmentalization.



Passenger Safety Working Group

More Crashworthiness and Glazing Issues

- Priority 2 issues (continued)
 - DMU fuel tanks.
 - Auxiliary fuel tanks.
 - Side strength of passenger equipment.
 - Consist configuration based on passenger occupancy and speed.



Passenger Safety Working Group Emergency Preparedness Issues

- Illumination, signage, exit path marking.
- Durability of photoluminescent signs.
- Exterior marking for rescue crew access to windows.
- Priority 2 issues:
 - Emergency communication.
 - Emergency exits.
 - Emergency response for disabled passengers.



Passenger Safety Working Group More Emergency Preparedness Issues

- Priority 2 issues (continued):
 - Qualified crew member in Part 238.
 - Emergency power requirements.
 - Egress capacity, doors and kick panels.
 - Rescue and roof access.
 - Readiness for medical emergencies.
 - Passenger manifest accountability.



Passenger Safety Working Group Track-Vehicle Interaction Issues

- Flange angle, tread conicity and truck equalization.
- Elimination of instrumented wheelset test for Tier 1 cars.
- Consolidation of Part 213 and Part 238 requirements.
- Track safety standards revisions.
- Cant deficiency requirements.



Passenger Safety Working Group Task Force Progress

- All task forces have held meetings.
- Working group to meet May 10-11 in Chicago.
- Task forces to report milestones and first recommendations at that time.
- Recommendations on individual issues will be considered, “bundling” will not be required.



Passenger Safety Working Group Outlook

- Working group recommendations to the RSAC on some issues may be available as soon as the next full committee meeting.