



Office of Railroad Safety

Regulatory Activity Update

March 2024



Generally...

- Consistent with current Administration's priorities, FRA is pursuing numerous regulatory efforts each with the safety of railroad operations as its top priority.
- Despite FRA's priorities and goals, we do not control the timelines for coordination, clearance and publication.



Generally... (con'td)

- DOT Regulatory Agenda is available online at www.reginfo.gov
 - Click on “Unified Agenda” and then choose “Department of Transportation”
 - Each rulemaking proceeding can be identified by its unique RIN Number (RIN numbers included on following slides for future reference)



Recently Published Final Rule

- Emergency Escape Breathing Apparatus
 - Published 1/26/24
 - Responds to RSIA Mandate & requires railroads to provide atmosphere-supplying emergency escape breathing apparatus to crews on trains transporting hazardous materials that pose inhalation hazards
 - FRA received 2 petitions for reconsideration of final rule in March 2024
 - ASLRRRA
 - ASLRRRA/AAR



Agency Priority Rules

Final Rules Under Development

- Train Crew Size Safety Requirements – NPRM published 7/28/22 (RIN 2130-AC88)
 - Draft final rule currently under review with OMB
- Dispatcher and Signal Employee Certification (RINs 2130-AC91, -AC92)
 - NPRMs published 5/31/23
- Passenger Equipment Safety Standards; Standards for High-Speed Trainsets (Tier III, Part 2) (RIN 2130-AC74)
 - NPRM published 4/3/23
- Freight Car Certification (IIJA Mandate) (RIN 2130-AC94)
 - NPRM published 12/8/23



Other Rules in Process

- Training, Qualification, and Oversight for Safety-Related Railroad Employees (RIN 2130-AC87)
 - NPRM published 10/3/22
 - NPRM proposes to incorporate existing guidance
- Risk Reduction Program (RIN 2130-AC89)
 - NPRM responding to Petition for Reconsideration re: inclusion of contractor employees in railroad RRP
 - NPRM published 9/8/22



Other Rules in Process (cont.)

- Amendments to Freight Car Reflectorization (RIN 2130-AC77)
 - NPRM published July 21, 2022
 - Final rule under development
- Positive Train Control Systems (RIN 2130-AC95)
 - NPRM under development
- Railroad Noise Emission Compliance Regs. (IIJA mandate) (RIN 2130-AC83)
 - NPRM under development
- Electronic Service Rule (Administrative) (RIN 2130-AC93)



Open IIJA Law

Rulemaking Mandates

- Rulemaking Mandates:
 - Emergency Lighting
 - New Passenger Service Pre-Revenue Safety Validation Plan
 - Advancing Safety and Innovative Technology
 - *All included in Tier III, Part 2 rule*
 - High Speed Train Noise Emissions – *NPRM under development*



Other Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Rulemaking Provisions

- Potential Rules:
 - Passenger Rail Vehicle Occupant Protection System (after study)
 - Amendments to Critical Incident Stress Plan Regulation





Questions

