



U.S. Department of
Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

**Railroad Safety Advisory Committee
Task Statement: Rail Integrity**

Task No.: 15-03

Date initially presented to the RSAC: July 15, 2015 (by electronic VOTE)

Purpose: To consider specific improvements to the Track Safety Standards Subpart A-G designed to enhance rail safety by improving rail defect remedial actions and by requiring internal rail inspection on Class 2 track.

Background: Under Task 08-03, the Rail Integrity Working Group recently addressed rail defect remedial actions for Track Safety Standards Subpart A-F. The Rail Integrity final rule that was developed with the help of that Working Group has resulted in Subpart A-F (Class 1 through 5) requirements that are more stringent than the current Subpart G (Class 6 through 9) requirements. In addition, recent catastrophic incidents on lower speed track suggest that internal rail inspection requirements must be developed for Class 2 track. Currently, a railroad is not required to perform internal rail inspections on Class 2 track. With the increase in hazardous materials shipping through populated areas, however, comes an increase in the risk and consequences of rail defect development and catastrophic rail failure in Class 2 track.

Description: Review and evaluate the following:

- **49 CFR Part 213.113 Defective Rails.** Review, investigate, discuss, and consider adopting more restrictive remedial actions for defective rails, such as lowering the maximum operating speed allowed over the defective rail until repaired, and shortening timeframes for repair or replacement of the defective rail.
- **49 CFR Part 213.241 Inspection Records.** Review, investigate, and discuss regulatory language that would require railroads to provide rail defect and failure information to FRA when verifying compliance with the performance-based inspection frequencies.
- **49 CFR Part 213.237 Inspection of Rail.** Review, investigate, discuss, and consider updates to require rail inspection on Class 2 track based on tonnage and type of traffic over the track.

Issues requiring specific report:

- The Rail Integrity Working Group will consider the issues presented in the description above, specifically report its recommendations to the Committee, and, if appropriate, develop draft regulatory language to address these issues.

Refer to/establish following working group: Rail Integrity Working Group

Target Dates: Report initial recommendations and ongoing work plan to the Committee by no later than one year from kick-off meeting date.

Disposition: ACCEPTED

Accepted Date: July 31, 2015