

**Railroad Safety Advisory Committee
Task Statement: Track Inspection**

Task No.: 19-05

Date initially presented to the RSAC: 11/26/2019

Purpose: To consider specific improvements to the Track Safety Standards in Subpart F of Part 213 or other responsive actions designed to enhance rail safety by improving track inspection methods, frequency, and documentation.

Background: New and alternative track inspection methodologies and associated technologies are being developed to help continue to drive down the number of track-caused derailments. Automated track inspection technologies have been evolving since the 1970's. They provide an objective method to evaluate track conditions and identify defective conditions in the track. Automated track geometry measurement system (TGMS) is one of the proven track inspection technologies and has been widely used by the railroad industry. TGMS in combination with other emerging inspection technologies could potentially fulfill some of the regulatory requirements for track inspections. However, 49 CFR Part 213, Subpart F - Inspection, which prescribes the frequency and manner of inspecting track in track Classes 1 through 5, does not specify automated track inspections for compliance with the track safety standards. This task will examine the feasibility to fulfill certain inspection requirements using automated track inspection technologies while maximizing the effectiveness of visual inspections.

Description: Review and evaluate the following:

- Current Part 213, Subpart F—Inspection requirements;
- Studies of track inspection methods and other relevant information regarding improvement of track inspection effectiveness, accuracy, and efficiency;
- Whether current track inspection methods and frequency remain effective and efficient, or need to be revised.

Issues requiring specific report:

- The Track Standards Working Group will consider current or proposed inspection requirements and other relevant information in making recommended changes to Subpart F of 49 CFR Part 213 on the above issues.

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

Target Dates: Report initial recommendations and ongoing work plan to the Committee by no later than 1 year from kick-off meeting date.

Disposition: Accepted

Accepted Date: 11/26/2019