



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

**Railroad Safety Advisory Committee
Task Statement:
Track Safety Standards–Rail Integrity**

Task No.: 08-03

Date initially presented to the RSAC: September 10, 2008

Purpose:

To consider specific improvements to the Track Safety Standards or other responsive actions designed to enhance rail integrity.

Background:

Under Task No. 07-01, the Track Safety Standards Working Group is currently undertaking the following issues related to rail integrity:

- Review controls applied to reuse of rail in CWR (“plug rail”).
- Review the issue of cracks emanating from bond wire attachments.
- Ensure a common understanding within the regulated community concerning requirements for internal rail flaw inspections.

Description:

- Evaluate the contribution of broken rails to derailments and other data reflecting on the management of rail defects, including cumulative tonnage, traffic projections, and rail replacement rates, as well as improvements in rail steel, rail head grinding, and other factors.
- Review 49 CFR § 213.113 (Defective rails) and § 213.237 (Inspection of rail) and any related provisions of the Track Safety Standards and if practicable propose enhancements to significantly reduce the rate of broken rail derailments on main line tracks.

Issues requiring specific report:

- Factors that can and should be included in determining the frequency of internal rail flaw testing and a methodology for taking those factors into consideration with respect to mandatory testing intervals.
- Whether the quality and consistency of internal rail flaw testing can be improved and how.
- Whether adjustments to current remedial action criteria are warranted.
- The effect of rail head wear, surface conditions and other relevant factors on the acquisition and interpretation of internal rail flaw test results.

Source:

National Transportation Safety Board Recommendations R-08-9, R-08-10, R-08-11;
FRA investigations

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

Target Date: Working Group report timetable

Disposition:

Date: