



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

**Railroad Safety Advisory Committee
Task Statement:
Railroad Bridge Safety Assurance**

Task No.: 08-05

Date initially presented to the RSAC: December 10, 2008

Purpose:

Develop a draft rule encompassing the requirements of section 417, Railroad Bridge Safety Assurance, of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (Division A, Public Law No. 110-432). This Act directs the Secretary of Transportation to promulgate regulations, not later than 12 months after the October 16, 2008 date of enactment, requiring owners of track carried on one or more railroad bridges to adopt a bridge safety management program to reduce the risk of human casualties, environmental damage, and disruption to the Nation's railroad transportation system that would result from a catastrophic bridge failure.

Description:

- Review section 417 in order to ascertain Congressional intent and consider impacts of implementation of this Section on railroads of all sizes.
- Develop an effective and efficient bridge safety regulation based on the legislative mandate in section 417.
- Adapt applicable portions of RSAC document "Essential Elements of Railroad Bridge Management Programs", previously developed by the Railroad Bridge Working Group, for inclusion in the draft rule.

Issues requiring specific report:

The committee should consider, and specifically report on, issues presented in the description above.

Source: Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, Federal Railroad Administration

Refer to/establish following working group: Railroad Bridge Working Group

Target Dates:

- By January 5, 2009: stakeholder organizations file expressions of interest and nominations for additions or replacements of Railroad Bridge Working Group members and alternates.
- January 28, 2009: Reconvene the Railroad Bridge Working Group in DC.
- Periodic: report to the full RSAC, at each scheduled RSAC meeting, milestones and achievement for completion of objectives and progress toward completion.
- By May 15, 2009: Railroad Bridge Working Group final report to RSAC.

Disposition: Accepted

Date: December 10, 2008