



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

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

Task No.: 11-02

Date initially presented to the RSAC: August 2, 2011

Purpose: To consider specific improvements to the Track Safety Standards or other responsive actions related to the Track Inspection Time Study required by section 403 (a)-(c) of the of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA) and other relevant studies and resources.

Description:

- Section 403 (a) required the Secretary of Transportation to complete a comprehensive track-inspection time and track safety study by October 16, 2010, and to report to Congress on the results of the study. The report was completed, signed, and transmitted to Congress on May 2, 2011
- Section 403 (c) requires the Secretary to prescribe regulations based on the results of the study and other relevant information not later than two years after the completion of the study.

Issues requiring specific report:

- The Track Standards Working Group will consider the FRA Track Inspection Time Study and other relevant information in making recommendations for changes to 49 CFR Part 213 while addressing the following tasks;
- Determine under what conditions automated track inspection should be expanded to improve safety and whether the required intervals of track inspection for each class of track should be amended. This may include the development of requirements for the distribution, handling, and interpretation of automated inspection reports for track inspectors whose territories are subject to automated track inspection;
- Determine whether track inspector training should be formally developed and standardized, and whether that would modify the criteria and procedures for designation under Part 213.7;
- Determine whether track remedial action requirements set forth in Part 213, other than those set forth in Part 213.113, should be amended;
- Determine whether different track inspection and repair priorities or methods should be required;
- Review methods to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of track inspection including; railroad operating practices, safety culture, and other factors, such as but not limited to: inspection speed and scope to allow for proper inspection; developing a safety reporting system to provide a way to report safety risks related to track inspections; and developing the criteria for determining the length of a track inspector's assigned territory, including but not limited to, traffic volume, number of tracks, number of switches, number of grade crossings, type of track, etc.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. § 20162, as enacted by section 403(a) - (c) of Division A, Public Law No. 110-432.

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

Target Dates: Report recommendations by May 2, 2012.

Disposition: Accepted

Accepted Date: August 16, 2011