



U.S. Department of
Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

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

Task No.: 15-01

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

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: Part 213, Subpart F—Inspection prescribes the frequency and manner of inspecting track in track Classes 1 through 5. Several track-caused derailments have occurred involving detectable noncompliant track conditions. Proper recognition and understanding of track conditions could have improved the detection of and implementation of proper remedial action to address such conditions before accidents occurred. Since 1998, the use of electronic technology to document and maintain track inspection records has been permitted; however, that technology has substantially changed and improved.

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 (to include tourist & historic operations);
- Studies of electronic data collection, storage, and security;
- Whether current track inspection methods and frequency remain effective and efficient, or need to be revised;
- Whether current track inspection recordkeeping requirements collect and maintain the necessary information, or need to be revised;
- Whether electronic collection, storage and security of track inspection records should be revised; and
- Whether track inspector training should be more formally developed and standardized, and whether that would modify the criteria and procedures for designation under section 213.7.

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: July 31, 2015