



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee
Task Statement:
Accident/Incident Reporting /Conformity
Task No. : 2001-1

Date presented to the RSAC: April 23, 2001

Purpose:

To conform FRA's regulations for accident/incident reporting (49 CFR Part 225) to revised regulations of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor, and to make appropriate revisions to the *FRA Guide for Preparing Accident/Incident Reports* (Reporting Guide).

Description:

On January 19, 2001, OSHA published revised regulations for Occupational Injury and Illness Recording and Reporting (66 FR 5965). FRA accident/incident regulations pertaining to occupational injury and illnesses are patterned after the prior OSHA regulations and must be maintained in general conformity with those regulations to permit comparability of data and integration of railroad industry data into national statistical databases. OSHA's Final Rule becomes effective on January 1, 2002. Accordingly, FRA needs to revise its own injury codes and narratives, cause codes and narratives, and circumstance codes and narratives (as set forth in the Reporting Guide) as soon as feasible. Minor administrative issues have also arisen since the last general revision of Part 225 on January 1, 1997 that should be considered in relation to possible amendments to the regulations or the Reporting Guide. The Committee may also be requested to offer recommendations concerning responses to public comments on a proposed rule or draft Reporting Guide, as time permits.

Issues requiring specific report:

The committee should consider, and specifically report on, the following issues:

- (1) Recommended changes to the regulations and Reporting Guide to achieve conformity with revised OSHA regulations and guidance, including consideration of codes, narratives, and forms.
- (2) Any appropriate perfecting changes to the regulations or Reporting Guide responsive to issues identified by FRA in its administration of the current accident/incident program.

Special procedure:

FRA will circulate a list of potential issues to all RSAC members at least 14 days prior to the first working group meeting on this task. If any RSAC member organization not currently represented on the working group wishes to join that group, that member may submit a request to participate to the Chair. The Chair will act to ensure representation of all stakeholders. Requests from current working group organizations to substitute or augment their representation as a result of issues presented under this task will also be considered by the Chair.

Within the working group, consensus is required to consider any issue. Of course, FRA may elect to proceed with proposed changes independent of the RSAC on any issue for which consensus is not reached to proceed or for which timely recommendations are not forthcoming.

Refer to:

Accident/Incident Working Group

Target dates:

9/15/2001 Report recommended changes

Disposition: Accepted

Date: 4/23/01

Editorial note: At the full Committee meeting, it was agreed that the minutes of the meeting would reflect that conformity with DOL/OSHA regulations is intended to be accomplished where reasonable and practicable in the context of the railroad industry. G.Cothen 5/2/2001