



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

Federal Railroad  
Administration

**Railroad Safety Advisory Committee  
Task Statement:  
Review and Revision of the Locomotive Safety Standards**

**Task No.:** 06-01

**Date presented to the RSAC:** February 22, 2006

**Purpose:** To review 49 CFR Part 229, Railroad Locomotive Safety Standards, and revise as appropriate.

**Description:** Review Part 229 generally, with special emphasis on Sections 229.21 (Daily inspection); 229.23 (Periodic inspection - general); 229.25 (Tests: Every periodic inspection); 229.29 (air brake intervals); 229.125 (Headlights and auxiliary lights); and 229.131 (Sanders). Develop provisions for (optional) electronic recordkeeping. Consider need for regulation of safety-relevant control systems.

**Issues requiring specific report:**

- Whether there is a continuing need for § 229.131 (Sanders).
- What conditions or procedures should accompany authorization of electronic record keeping?
- Apart from traditional train control, what is the role of electronic control systems in the operation of locomotives for switching and for train operations? What safety criteria should be applied?
- Whether current inspection intervals and procedures are appropriate to current conditions?

**Sources:**

- Request from the Association of American Railroads, Docket 2005-20112-9, to restructure the requirements for locomotive inspections and facilitate electronic record keeping.
- Request from the Association of American Railroads, Docket 2004-18739, to delete Section 229.131, which requires that locomotives be equipped with operable sanders.
- Waiver request from American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association, Docket 2003-16271, to reduce the regulatory burden for small railroads in connection with the inspection requirements in Section 229.23 and Section 229.25.
- Requests by labor organizations for attention to issues related to remote control of locomotives.
- The Government Paperwork Elimination Act.

**Refer to:** Locomotive Safety Standards Working Group to be formed.

**Target dates:**

90 days from date of first working group meeting: report any recommendations regarding revision or repeal of § 229.131 (Sanders).

The Working Group will be established and will report to the RSAC any specific actions identified as appropriate. The Working Group will report planned activity to the full Committee at each scheduled Committee meeting, including milestones for completion of projects and progress toward completion.

**Disposition:** Accepted

**Date:** February 22, 2006