



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee
Task Statement:
Track Safety Standards and Continuous Welded Rail

Task No.: 06-02

Date presented to the RSAC: February 22, 2006

Purpose:

To review and revise the continuous welded rail (CWR) related provisions of the Track Safety Standards, with particular emphasis on reduction of derailments and consequent injuries and damage caused by defective conditions, including joint failures, in track using CWR.

Description:

- Review the Interim Final Rule (IFR) on inspection of joint bars in CWR territory, and comments on the IFR, and prepare recommendations for the final rule.
- Review pertinent accident/incident data and reporting criteria, railroad CWR programs and engineering standards, and FRA inspection data.
- Evaluate further enhancements for management of CWR to prevent track buckling and joint failures, including design, maintenance and inspection.

Issues requiring specific report:

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

- (1) Resolution of comments on the IFR.
- (2) Recommendations regarding FRA's role in oversight of CWR programs, including analysis of data to determine effective management of CWR safety by the railroads.

Source:

Section 9005(a) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), (Public Law 109-59, August 10, 2005).
National Transportation Safety Board Recommendations R-04-01, R-04-02.

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

Target Date:

June 2, 2006: Report working group recommendations to the full Committee for item (1) above.

Disposition: Accepted

Date: February 22, 2006