



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

## **Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Task Statement: Revision of Event Recorder Requirements**

**Task No.:** 97-3

**Date presented to the RSAC:** June 24, 1997.

### **Purposes:**

To enhance rail safety through any appropriate revision of and/or addition to existing event recorder requirements to improve accident investigation, reconstruction, and analysis methodologies. To consider, and as appropriate act upon, National Transportation Safety Board recommendation for locomotive cab voice recorders.

### **Description:**

Recommend, as appropriate based on data and analysis, revisions and additions to the regulations governing locomotive event recorders (49 CFR Part 229), regarding ① the specific data elements that should be recorded, ② parameters to ensure event recorder survivability under fire, water, and impact conditions, ③ event recorder inspection, test, maintenance, and data requirements, and ④ whether event recorders should be required to be physically positioned in a lead versus trailing locomotive within a consist.

Examine the need for and feasibility of requirements governing the design, implementation, functionality, test, maintenance, and associated parameters relating to the installation of voice recorders in locomotive cabs. Advise FRA regarding response to the related recommendation of the National Transportation Safety Board and follow through, as needed, based upon the response.

### **Source:**

- ① FRA final rule on event recorders, response to petitions for reconsideration (Federal Register volume 60, Number 102, Friday, May 26, 1995, pages 27900—27906)
- ② Letter of May 1, 1995, from Chairman Hall of the National Transportation Safety Board, recommending crash survivability criteria.
- ③ RSAC meeting of March 24, 1997, in Washington, D.C.

- ④ National Transportation Safety Board Public Meeting of June 17, 1997: Abstract of Final Report—*Derailment and Collision of MARC Commuter Train with Amtrak 'Capitol Limited' Silver Spring, Maryland, February 16, 1996*

**Issues requiring specific report:**

All matters related to the revision of and/or addition to the existing standards, including data required for regulatory analysis.

**Refer to/establish following working group:**

Event Recorder Working Group

**Target dates:**

March 1, 1998 Report recommended course of action to the full RSAC; set out timetable for future milestones, as appropriate.

**Disposition:** Accepted Declined

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_