



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

## **Railroad Safety Advisory Committee Task Statement: Positive Train Control Systems--Implementation Issues**

**Task No.:** 97-5

**Date presented to the RSAC:** September 30, 1997

**Purpose:**

To address any remaining issues regarding the feasibility of implementing fully integrated PTC systems, evaluate factors that may guide decisions on how PTC could yield optimum benefits in relation to costs, and determine the timetable over which such systems could be deployed--taking into account the need to first complete testing and revenue demonstration of any new system.

**Description:**

Complete analysis as indicated in the "purpose" statement above; report recommendations to the Administrator. Consider the following issues:

- Application to both freight and passenger lines.
- Technical readiness; steps required to deploy.
- Coordination of public and private sector transportation needs.
- Priorities and pace of development (recognizing safety and business needs to promote investments with optimum returns in societal benefits).
- Proposed migration strategies.

**Source:**

FRA Report to Congress entitled “*Railroad Communications and Train Control*” (July 1994) and recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board.

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

~~PTC Implementation Working Group~~ [PTC Working Group.](#)

**Coordination:**

~~Coordinate effort with PTC Standards Working Group to ensure common technical assumptions.~~

**Target dates:**

~~Working group progress report with results to date and timetable for completion:  
December 15, 1997.~~

[Provide status report with timetable to full committee by meeting of January 27, 1998..](#)

**Disposition:** Accepted

**Date:** [September 30, 1997.](#)