



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Railroad Safety Advisory Committee
Task Statement:
Reduce Human Factor-Caused Train Accidents/Incidents

Task No.: 05-02

Date presented to the RSAC: May 18, 2005

Purpose:

To reduce the number of human factor-caused train accidents/incidents and related employee injuries.

Description:

- Review the primary human factor causes of train accidents/incidents and existing railroad operating rules relevant to primary causes.
- Determine the sufficiency of railroad operating rules that address major categories of human factor train accidents and the extent to which improved compliance with existing railroad operating rules would contribute to reductions in human factor train accidents and incidents.
- Review railroad programs of operating rules instruction, training, and oversight related to principal human factors causes and relevant portions of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- Determine means of improving accountability for compliance with critical operating rules.
- Consider the sufficiency of rules and training for railroad operating employees regarding interface with automated warning systems at highway-rail crossings.

Issues requiring specific report:

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

- (1) Which railroad operating rules relate to the primary causes of human factor train accidents/incidents.
- (2) Whether existing critical operating rules are sufficient to address the relevant hazards, if observed, and whether they are clear and precise, so as to encourage compliance.
- (3) What underlying factors contribute to unsafe actions in violation of railroad operating rules.
- (4) What regulatory and/or other actions may be appropriate to foster compliance with railroad operating rules.
- (5) Whether, in addition to such regulatory action as FRA may elect to propose, FRA should issue safety advisories, conduct further research, or take other action within its authority and resources to advance the safety of railroad operations related to human factors.

Source: Federal Railroad Administration

Refer to/establish following working group: Operating Rules Working Group

Target Date:

February 10, 2006: Report working group recommendations to full Committee.

Disposition: Accepted as revised

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