

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number 2000-7094) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Issued in Washington, DC, on May 18, 2000.

Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), notice is hereby given that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) received a request for a waiver of compliance with provisions of the Hours of Service Law (108 Stat. 888, Pub. L. 103-272, 49 U.S.C. 21102(b)). The Hours of Service Law currently makes it unlawful for a railroad to require specified employees to remain on duty in excess of 12 hours. However, the Hours of Service Law contains a provision permitting a railroad, which employs not more than 15 employees subject to the statute, to seek an exemption from the 12 hour limitation.

York Railway Company (YRC)

[Waiver Petition Docket No. FRA-2000-7064]

The YRC seeks an exemption so that it may permit train crew employees to remain on duty not more than 16 hours in any 24-hour period to provide coal train deliveries to a consignee located in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania. The YRC further states that it is not its intention to employ a train crew over 12 hours per day under normal circumstances, but this exemption, if continued, would help its operation if other unusual

operating conditions are encountered. The YRC provides service on over 40 miles of trackage located in York County, Pennsylvania, with its headquarters in York, Pennsylvania.

The petitioner indicates that granting the exemption is in the public interest and will not adversely affect safety. Additionally, the petitioner asserts it employs not more than 15 employees that are subject to the statute and has demonstrated good cause for granting this exemption.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. FRA does not anticipate scheduling a public hearing in connection with these proceedings since the facts do not appear to warrant a hearing. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number 2000-7064) and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, DOT Docket Management Facility, Room PL-401 (Plaza Level), 400 7th Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. Communications received within 45 days of the date of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) at the above facility. All documents in the public docket are also available for inspection and copying on the Internet at the docket facility's web site at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

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Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Notice of Safety Advisory on RoadRailer Trailers

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of safety advisory.

SUMMARY: FRA is issuing Safety Advisory 99-03A in order to modify

and update previously issued Safety Advisory 99-03 which addressed the securement of floor beam cross-members on RoadRailer® trailers. See 64 FR 61377 (November 10, 1999). FRA is issuing this revised Safety Advisory to address the securement of lift rods on RoadRailer® trailers in order to prevent the highway tandem wheels on these trailers from falling to the rails on moving trains. This Safety Advisory also provides updated information regarding the actions being taken within the industry regarding the securement of floor beam cross-members and lift rods on this equipment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Fairbanks, Mechanical Engineer, Motive Power and Equipment Division, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance, FRA, 400 Seventh Street, SW, RRS-14, Mail Stop 25, Washington, DC 20590 (Telephone 202-493-6322/ Fax 202-493-6230)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In November of 1999, FRA issued Safety Advisory 99-03 based on its discovery that several RoadRailer® trailers operated by Triple Crown Services (Triple Crown) had experienced failures of floor beam cross-members. See 64 FR 61377. The cross beams connect the highway tandem wheel set to the body of the trailer via slide rails. The failure of the cross beams allows the weight of the tandem wheel set to deflect the slide rails to the point where the highway tires contact the rail. Prior to the issuance of Safety Advisory 99-03, FRA notified Wabash National Incorporated (Wabash), the manufacturer of RoadRailer® equipment, and requested that Wabash randomly inspect trailers at the Fort Wayne, Indiana, Triple Crown facility. Representatives of Wabash, Triple Crown, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and FRA conducted a series of inspections at this facility in October of 1999. The cross-member defects found during these inspections could be classified into four categories:

1. A weld crack at the slide rail to I-beam cross-member;
2. A crack in the cross-member I-beam flange (which usually starts at the end of a weld);
3. A crack which has progressed into the web of the I-beam from the flange; or
4. A cross-member broken into two pieces.

The practice of attaching the tandem wheel set slide rails to the trailer body by welding to floor cross-member I-beam flanges has been the accepted method of highway trailer fabrication for many years. This method is