

needed for the FHWA to fulfill its statutory obligations regarding funding determinations on emergency work to repair highway facilities. The requirements covering the FHWA ER program are contained in 23 CFR part 668.

*Respondents:* 52 State Transportation Departments, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

*Frequency:* As required.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 5,000 hours. 200 hours per application for an average of 30 annual applications.

*For Further Information Contact:* Mr. Mohan Pillay, 202-366-4655, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Infrastructure Core Business Unit, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*6. Title:* Preparation and Execution of the Project Agreement and Modifications

*OMB Control Number:* 2125-0529 (Expiration Date: May 31, 2001).

*Abstract:* Formal agreements between State transportation departments and the FHWA are required for Federal-aid highway projects. These agreements, referred to as "project agreements" are written contracts between the State and the Federal government that define the extent of work to be undertaken and commitments made concerning a highway project. In a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM), published on August 31, 2000 (65 FR 52962), the FHWA proposed actions that would update and modify existing requirements to reflect statutory changes to the project agreement process mandated by section 1305 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) (Public Law 105-178, 112 Stat. 107). This FHWA proposal would combine the authorization of work and execution of the project agreement for a Federal-aid project into a single action. We do not expect the basic requirement for a project agreement to change, nor do we expect changes to the current information collection burden estimates as a result of this proposal. Nonetheless, the FHWA will consider any comments received to the NPRM regarding these information collections before issuance of a final rule in this matter. A final rule would reflect any necessary changes to 23 CFR 630, subpart A. Thus, the FHWA's current submission to OMB seeking approval to renew this information collection will not reflect any revised estimates in burdens. The estimates set forth below are based on current regulations.

*Respondents:* 50 State Transportation Departments, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of Guam, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 12,040 hours. There are an average of 215 annual agreements per respondent. Each agreement requires approximately one hour to complete.

*For Further Information Contact:* Mr. Jack Wasley, 202-366-4658, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Infrastructure Core Business Unit, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*7. Title:* Nationwide Survey of "Public Roads" Readers

*OMB Control Number:* 2125-0562 (Expiration Date: May 31, 2001)

*Abstract:* "Public Roads" is a bimonthly magazine published by the FHWA. The FHWA conducts periodic surveys of its readers to improve the quality and content of the magazine. Executive Order 12862 requires all agencies to identify their customers, survey their satisfaction with current services, set standards for service and measure results against them. A nationwide census of readers was conducted in 1995 to establish benchmarks to gauge overall reader satisfaction and to measure, in particular, satisfaction with significant changes that had been made in the magazine's design and content, subject scope, and audience. The results of ongoing surveys will form the basis of a major, direct-mail campaign to increase the number of paid subscribers.

*Respondents:* Approximately 1,500 paid and complementary subscribers to "Public Roads" magazine.

*Frequency:* Biennially.

*Estimated Total Annual Burden:* 375 hours. The average burden per response is 15 minutes.

*For Further Information Contact:* Ms. Martha Soneira, 202-493-3468, Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Research, Development and Technology Service Business Unit, Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center, 6300 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101. Office hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

*Electronic Access:* Internet users may access all comments received by the U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, by using the universal resource locator (URL): <http://dms.dot.gov>. It is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year.

Please follow the instructions online for more information and help. An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office Electronic Bulletin Board Service at telephone number 202-512-1661. Internet users may reach the **Federal Register's** home page at <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's database at <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

**Authority:** The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995; 44 U.S.C. Chapter 35, as amended; and 49 CFR 1.48.

Issued on: October 31, 2000.

**James R. Kabel,**

*Chief, Management Programs and Analysis Division.*

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**BILLING CODE 65-60-50-P**

## 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 certain requirements of its safety standards. The individual petition is described below, including the party seeking relief, the regulatory provisions involved, the nature of the relief being requested, and the petitioner's arguments in favor of relief.

#### Blue Ridge Scenic Railway Company

[Docket Number FRA-2000-8132]

The Blue Ridge Scenic Railway Company of Blue Ridge, Georgia, has petitioned for a permanent waiver of compliance for one passenger coach from the requirements of the Safety Glazing Standards, 49 CFR Part 223, which requires certified glazing in all windows and a minimum of four emergency windows. The railroad indicates that the car is used in tourist service over 13 miles of track between Blue Ridge and McCaysville, Georgia, at a speed not to exceed 15 mph. The railroad indicates that there is no freight operated over this line, which is in a rural area along the Toccoa River.

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 FRA-2000-8132) and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room Pl-401, Washington, DC, 20590-0001. 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 a.m.-5 p.m.) at DOT Central Docket Management Facility, Room Pl-401 (Plaza Level), 400 Seventh Street SW, Washington, DC. 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 November 1, 2000.

**Grady C. Cothen, Jr.,**

*Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards and Program Development.*

[FR Doc. 00-28442 Filed 11-3-00; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. RSAC-96-1, Notice No. 21]

#### Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC); Working Group Activity Update

**AGENCY:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

**ACTION:** Announcement of Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) Working Group Activities.

**SUMMARY:** FRA is updating its announcement of RSAC's working group activities to reflect the current status of working group activities.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Trish Paoletta or Lydia Leeds, RSAC Coordinators, FRA, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW, Mailstop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493-6213 or Grady Cothen, Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Standards Program Development, FRA, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW, Mailstop 25, Washington, DC 20590, (202) 493-6302.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice serves to update FRA's last announcement of working group activities and status reports on December 17, 1999 (64 FR 70756). The fifteenth full Committee meeting was held September 14, 2000 at the Association of American Railroads Conference Center in Washington, D.C.

Since its first meeting in April of 1996, the RSAC has accepted sixteen tasks. Status for each of the tasks is provided below:

**Task 96-1—Revising the Freight Power Brake Regulations.** This Task was formally withdrawn from the RSAC on June 24, 1997. FRA published an NPRM on September 9, 1998, reflective of what FRA had learned through the collaborative process. Two public hearings were conducted and a technical conference was held. The date for submission of written comments was extended to March 1, 1999. The final rule is in review and clearance. Contact: Thomas Hermann (202) 493-6036.

**Task 96-2—Reviewing and recommending revisions to the Track Safety Standards (49 CFR Part 213).** This task was accepted April 2, 1996, and a Working Group was established. Consensus was reached on recommended revisions and an NPRM incorporating these recommendations was published in the **Federal Register** on July 3, 1997, (62 FR 36138). The final rule was published in the **Federal Register** on June 22, 1998 (63 FR 33991). The effective date of the rule was September 21, 1998. A task force was established to address Gage Restraint Measurement System (GRMS) technology applicability to the Track Safety Standards. A GRMS amendment to the Track Safety Standards was approved by the full RSAC in a mail ballot during August. The final rule amendment will be published in the **Federal Register**. Contact: Al MacDowell (202) 493-6236.

**Task 96-3—Reviewing and recommending revisions to the Radio Standards and Procedures (49 CFR Part 220).** This Task was accepted on April 2, 1996, and a Working Group was established. Consensus was reached on recommended revisions and an NPRM incorporating these recommendations was published in the **Federal Register** on June 26, 1997 (62 FR 34544). The final rule was published on September 4, 1998 (63 FR 47182), and was effective on January 2, 1999. Contact: Gene Cox (202) 493-6319.

**Task 96-4—Reviewing the appropriateness of the agency's current policy regarding the applicability of existing and proposed regulations to tourist, excursion, scenic, and historic**

railroads. This Task was accepted on April 2, 1996, and a Working Group was established. The Working Group monitored the steam locomotive regulations task. Planned future activities involve the review of other regulations for possible adaptation to the safety needs of tourist and historic railroads. Contact: Grady Cothen (202) 493-6302.

**Task 96-5—Reviewing and recommending revisions to Steam Locomotive Inspection Standards (49 CFR Part 230).** This Task was assigned to the Tourist and Historic Working Group on July 24, 1996. Consensus was reached and an NPRM was published on September 25, 1998 (63 FR 51404). A public hearing was held on February 4, 1999, and recommendations were developed in response to comments received. The final rule was published on November 17, 1999 (64 FR 62828). Contact: George Scerbo (202) 493-6349.

**Task 96-6—Reviewing and recommending revisions to miscellaneous aspects of the regulations addressing Locomotive Engineer Certification (49 CFR Part 240).** This Task was accepted on October 31, 1996, and a Working Group was established. Consensus was reached and an NPRM was published on September 22, 1998. The Working Group met to resolve issues presented in public comments. The RSAC recommended issuance of a final rule with the Working Group modifications. The final rule was published November 8, 1999 (64 FR 60966). Contact: John Conklin (202) 493-6318.

**Task 96-7—Developing Roadway Maintenance Machine (On-Track Equipment) Safety Standards.** This task was assigned to the existing Track Standards Working Group on October 31, 1996, and a Task Force was established. The Task Force finalized a proposed rule which was approved by the full RSAC in a mail ballot in August. The NPRM will be published in the **Federal Register**. Contact: Al MacDowell (202) 493-6236.

**Task 96-8—This Planning Task** evaluated the need for action responsive to recommendations contained in a report to Congress entitled, *Locomotive Crashworthiness & Working Conditions*. This Planning Task was accepted on October 31, 1996. A Planning Group was formed and reviewed the report, grouping issues into categories, and prepared drafts of the task statements for Tasks 97-1 and 97-2.

**Task 97-1—Developing crashworthiness specifications to promote the integrity of the locomotive cab in accidents resulting from collisions.** This Task was accepted on