Association of State Rail Safety Managers
Overview

Council of State Governments Midwest
Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee Meeting

Cincinnati, OH
December 14, 2107

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Illinois Commerce Commission
President, ASRSM
FRA State Rail Safety Participation Program

- Created by the Federal Rail Safety Act of 1970
- Provides a way for States to have a continuing role in rail safety regulation following the Federal preemption of independent State regulation
- Provides training & federal certification for all State inspectors
- Coordinates efforts between States and FRA Regions on activities that involve State inspectors or State involvement.
- Provides State-specific rail safety information to State agencies interested in the State participation program; assists State programs to promote rail safety efforts within their organizations; develops data and narrative support for State program budgets.
- Plans, schedules, and facilitates annual meetings of the ASRSM.
FRA State Rail Safety Participation Program

- Cooperative Agreement with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
  - 49 CFR 212
- Federal Certification for State Inspectors
  - Hazardous Materials (HM)
  - Motive Power & Equipment (MPE)
  - Operating Practices (OP)
  - Signal & Train Control (STC)
  - Track (TRK)
- Highway-Rail Grade Crossings (XING)
FRA State Rail Safety Participation Program

- A State agency must have **State jurisdiction** over the safety practices of the facilities, equipment, rolling stock, and operations of railroads.

- **State inspectors must be bona fide State employees:** State and Federal rail safety inspectors perform duties that are “inherently governmental.” Their work is intimately related to the public interest.

- **Experience requirements:** Inspector candidates must have at least 4 years of recent experience in their chosen technical disciplines. States can hire apprentice inspectors who possess a basic knowledge and understanding of a technical discipline.

- State agencies and FRA sign a **participation agreement**.

- **Over 180** Federally-Certified State Inspectors

- State Inspectors = 33% of National RR Inspection Force
ASRSM Overview

- 31 States
- 14 Departments of Transportation
- 17 Regulatory Agencies
  - Public Utilities Commissions
  - Public Service Commissions
  - Commerce/Corporation Commissions
- Agreement between Member States and FRA
ASRSM States

✓ 2 New States Possible → GA & WI
ASRSM Leadership

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Executive Committee
  - 8 Members
  - Represent States in each FRA Region
- 2-Year Terms
Railroad Safety Programs

- Railroad Route Mileage
  - TX - 10,539
  - IL - 7,119
  - PA - 5,165
  - OH - 4,903
  - CA - 4,803
  - ME - 1,091

- Railroad Companies
  - PA - 72
  - IL - 53
  - TX - 52
  - OH - 40
  - CA - 26
  - ME - 6
## State Inspectors by Region

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<th>Participating States by Region</th>
<th>State Inspectors by Region</th>
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- CA – 51
- TX – 15
- OH – 13
- NY – 13
- ME - 1
ASRSM Growth
Public Safety is the #1 Priority
ASRSM Rail Safety Inspections

- Inspect Rail Facilities for Compliance with Federal Regulations:
  - **Hazardous Materials (HM)**
    - Inspect Rail Cars
    - Inspect Shipper Facilities
  - **Motive Power & Equipment (MPE)**
    - Locomotive and Rail Car Inspections
  - **Operating Practices (OP)**
    - Monitor/Inspect RR Operations
    - Roadway Worker Safety Compliance
    - Drug & Alcohol Compliance
ASRSM Rail Safety Inspections (Cont’d.)

✓ Signal & Train Control (STC)
  • Field Inspection of Railroad Train Control Systems
  • Field Inspection of Existing Automatic Crossing Warning Systems
  • Field Inspection of New Automatic Flasher & Gate Installations
  • Field Inspection of Positive Train Control (PTC) Systems

✓ Track (TRK)
  • Railroad Workplace Safety
  • Roadway Worker Protection
  • Roadway Maintenance Machines
  • Communication Requirements for Roadway Workers
  • Employee Facilities (State)
  • Employee Walkways in Yards (State)
Illinois - High Density Railroad Traffic

- Nation’s Largest Rail Hub (Chicago)
- 7,400 miles of track (2nd largest rail system in U.S.)
- 53 Operating Railroads
- 1500 Trains/Day
- 7,600+ public highway-rail grade crossings (2nd most in U.S.)
- 500 Million Tons (1 Trillion Pounds) of Freight Move on IL RR each Year (Most of any State)
- 2nd Largest Number of Hazardous Materials Shipments by Rail in U.S. (20 Million Tons/Yr)
- Thruway for Radioactive Waste & Spent Nuclear Fuel Shipments
Rail Safety Inspections - *Track*

- Annually check all main line, siding and yard tracks
- Inspections are conducted by walking track; Hi-rail Vehicles
- Deviations from the Federal Standards result in RRs cited for defects or violations
Track Safety Assurance & Compliance

- Federal Track Safety Standards (49 CFR 213)
  - Rail
  - Ballast / Drainage
  - Crossties
  - Alignment
  - Gauge
  - Crosslevel
  - Vegetation
  - Switches
  - Frogs
Rail
Ballast / Drainage
Crossties
Gauge

Figure 4
Crosslevel

- Difference in elevation (height) between the top surface of the two rails at any point of railroad track.
- **Zero Crosslevel** (no difference in elevation of both rails) is desired in tangent track.
- For curved track, the difference in elevation is referred to as **superelevation**.
Switches/Frogs

- **Switch (Turnout)** - mechanical installation enabling trains to be guided from one track to another.

- **Frog** - The crossing point of two rails.
Rail Accident Investigations

**NTSB Investigations:**
- NTSB is the Lead Agency
- FRA & State Inspectors Assist as Directed by NTSB

**FRA Investigations:**
- State Inspectors Assist as Directed by FRA

**State Investigations:**
- Assigned by State Rail Manager
QUESTIONS??

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