



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

49 CFR Part 211

[Docket No. FRA-2025-0079]

RIN 2130-AD06

Administrative Updates to the Federal Railroad Administration's Rules of Practice

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

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This rule makes administrative updates to FRA's rules of practice regulations, including updating addresses in those regulations.

DATES: Effective [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Consistent with the deregulatory agenda of President Donald J. Trump and Secretary of Transportation Sean P. Duffy, which seeks to unleash America's economic prosperity without compromising transportation safety, and as described in more detail below, this rule is making miscellaneous, administrative updates to its rules of practice

regulations in 49 CFR part 211. These changes include updating addresses that are no longer valid.

II. Section-by-Section Analysis

Part 211

§ 211.45 Petitions for emergency waiver of safety rules

FRA is amending § 211.45(d), (f), and (h) to remove the listed options of submitting emergency waiver petitions via fax and mail, and to update outdated e-mail and web addresses.

III. Public Participation

Under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), an agency may waive the normal notice and comment procedures if the action is a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice. 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(A). Additionally, under the APA, an agency may waive notice and comment procedures when the agency for good cause finds that notice and public procedure are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B). Since this final rule merely makes miscellaneous, administrative updates to the CFR, such as updating web addresses, it would not benefit from public comment, and notice and comment is not necessary.

IV. Regulatory Impact and Notices

A. Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) and DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures

FRA has evaluated this final rule in accordance with E.O. 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review (58 FR 51735, Oct. 4, 1993), and DOT Order 2100.6B, Policies and Procedures for Rulemaking (Mar. 10, 2025). The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs within the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) determined that this final rule is not a significant regulatory action under section 3(f) of E.O. 12866.

Because this final rule makes miscellaneous, administrative changes such as reflecting updated web and e-mail addresses, this final rule imparts no additional burdens on regulated entities. Moreover, this rule will provide some qualitative benefits to regulated entities and the U.S. government, by clarifying, simplifying, and updating the language of part 211, including updating addresses.

B. E.O. 14192 (Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation)

E.O. 14192, Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation (90 FR 9065, Jan. 31, 2025), requires that for “each new [E.O. 14192 regulatory action] issued, at least ten prior regulations be identified for elimination.”¹ Implementation guidance for E.O. 14192 issued by OMB (Memorandum M-25-20, March 26, 2025) defines two different types of E.O. 14192 actions: an E.O. 14192 deregulatory action, and an E.O. 14192 regulatory action.²

An E.O. 14192 deregulatory action is defined as “an action that has been finalized and has total costs less than zero.” This final rule is expected to have total costs less than zero, and therefore it would be considered an E.O. 14192 deregulatory action.

C. Regulatory Flexibility Act and E.O 13272

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 ((RFA), 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) and E.O. 13272 (67 FR 53461, Aug. 16, 2002) require an agency to prepare and make available to the public a regulatory flexibility analysis that describes the effect of the rule on small entities (*i.e.*, small businesses, small organizations, and small governmental jurisdictions). A regulatory flexibility analysis is not required when a rule is exempt from notice and comment rulemaking. FRA has determined that this rule is exempt from

¹ Executive Office of the President. *Executive Order 14192 of January 31, 2025. Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation.* 90 FR 9065-9067. Feb. 6, 2025.

² Executive Office of the President. Office of Management and Budget. *Guidance Implementing Section 3 of Executive Order 14192, Titled “Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation.”* Memorandum M-25-20. Mar. 26, 2025.

notice and comment rulemaking. Therefore, a regulatory flexibility analysis is not required for this rule.

D. Paperwork Reduction Act

There is no new collection of information requirements contained in this final rule, and in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, therefore, an information collection submission to OMB is not required.

E. Environmental Assessment

FRA has analyzed this rule for the purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). In accordance with 42 U.S.C. 4336 and DOT NEPA Order 5610.1C, FRA has determined that this rule is categorically excluded pursuant to 23 CFR 771.118(c)(4), “[p]lanning and administrative activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as: [p]romulgation of rules, regulations, and directives.” This rulemaking is not anticipated to result in any environmental impacts, and there are no unusual or extraordinary circumstances present in connection with this rulemaking.

F. Federalism Implications

This final rule will not have a substantial effect on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Thus, in accordance with E.O. 13132, “Federalism” (64 FR 43255, Aug. 10, 1999), preparation of a Federalism Assessment is not warranted.

G. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995

This final rule will not result in the expenditure, in the aggregate, of \$100,000,000 or more, adjusted for inflation, in any one year by State, local, or Indian Tribal governments, or the private sector. Thus, consistent with section 202 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–4, 2 U.S.C. 1532), FRA is not required to prepare a written statement detailing the effect of such an expenditure.

H. Energy Impact

E.O. 13211, Actions Concerning Regulations that Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use (66 FR 28355, May 22, 2001), requires Federal agencies to prepare a Statement of Energy Effects for any “significant energy action.” FRA has evaluated this rule in accordance with E.O. 13211 and determined that this rule is not a “significant energy action” within the meaning of E.O. 13211.

I. E.O. 13175 (Tribal Consultation)

FRA has evaluated this final rule in accordance with the principles and criteria contained in E.O. 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, (Nov. 6, 2000). The final rule would not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, would not impose substantial direct compliance costs on Indian tribal governments, and would not preempt tribal laws. Therefore, the funding and consultation requirements of E.O. 13175 do not apply, and a tribal summary impact statement is not required.

J. International Trade Impact Assessment

The Trade Agreement Act of 1979 prohibits Federal agencies from engaging in any standards or related activities that create unnecessary obstacles to the foreign commerce of the U.S. Legitimate domestic objectives, such as safety, are not considered unnecessary obstacles. The statute also requires consideration of international standards and, where appropriate, that they be the basis for U.S. standards. This rulemaking is purely domestic in nature and is not expected to affect trade opportunities for U.S. firms doing business overseas or for foreign firms doing business in the U.S.

List of Subjects

49 CFR Part 211

Administrative practice and procedure, Rules of practice.

The Final Rule

In consideration of the foregoing, FRA amends part 211 of chapter II, subtitle B of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

PART 211—RULES OF PRACTICE

1. The authority citation for part 211 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 20103, 20107, 20114, 20306, 20502-20504, and 49 CFR

1.89.

2. In § 211.45, revise paragraphs (d), (f), and (h) to read as follows:

§ 211.45 Petitions for emergency waiver of safety rules.

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(d) *Notification.* When possible, FRA will post the FRA Administrator's determination described in paragraph (c) of this section on its Web site at <https://railroads.dot.gov/>. FRA will also place the FRA Administrator's determination in the ERD as soon as practicable.

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(f) *Filing requirements.* Petitions filed under this section, shall be submitted via e-mail to FRA at: FRAWaivers@dot.gov.

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(h) *Comments.* Although the Administrator may waive compliance with any part of a regulation prescribed or order issued without prior notice and comment, comments may be submitted. Comments should be submitted as soon as possible, after a petition is available on the FeP. Any comment received will be considered to the extent practicable. All comments should identify the appropriate ERD and should identify the specific document number of the petition designated by the FeP in the ERD. Interested parties commenting on a petition under this section should also include in their comments to the ERD telephone numbers and e-mail addresses at which their representatives may be reached. Interested parties may submit their comments via:

(1) E-mail to FRA at: *FRAWaivers@dot.gov*; and

(2) Electronically via the internet at *https://www.regulations.gov*. Any comments or information sent directly to FRA will be immediately provided to the DOT FeP for inclusion in the ERD.

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Issued in Washington, DC.

Kyle D. Fields,
Chief Counsel.

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