



## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

#### 49 CFR Part 236

[Docket No. FRA-2025-0103]

RIN 2130-AD38

### Administrative Updates to the Rules, Standards, and Instructions Governing the Installation, Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair of Signal and Train Control Systems, Devices, and Appliances Regulations

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** This rule makes administrative updates to FRA's signal and train control regulations, including updating addresses in those regulations.

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

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Veronica Chittim, Senior Attorney, Office of Safety Law, Office of the Chief Counsel, FRA, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590 (telephone 202-480-3410), [veronica.chittim@dot.gov](mailto:veronica.chittim@dot.gov); or Lucinda Henriksen, Senior Advisor, Office of Railroad Safety, FRA (telephone 202-657-2842), [lucinda.henriksen@dot.gov](mailto:lucinda.henriksen@dot.gov).

#### 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 regulations in 49 CFR part 236. These changes include updating addresses that are no longer valid.

## **II. Section-by-Section Analysis**

### *Part 236*

#### *§ 236.0 Applicability, minimum requirements, and penalties*

FRA is amending § 236.0(f) by replacing references to specific penalty amounts with general references to the minimum civil monetary penalty, ordinary maximum civil monetary penalty, and aggravated maximum civil monetary penalty. FRA is adding language to this section referring readers to 49 CFR part 209, appendix A, where FRA will continue to specify statutorily provided civil penalty amounts updated for inflation. FRA is also amending this section to update the web address from [www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov) to <https://railroads.dot.gov/>. To be consistent with other definitions of “person,” such as 49 CFR 270.5, FRA is updating the reference in the parenthetical from 1 U.S.C. 1 to 49 U.S.C. 21301.

#### *§ 236.1005 Requirements for Positive Train Control systems*

FRA is amending 49 CFR 236.1005(g), (h), and (k) by replacing references to “Regional Administrator” with “FRA Signal and Train Control Division Staff Director” or “Staff Director.”

#### *§ 236.1029 PTC system use and failures*

FRA is amending § 236.1029(g) by replacing the phrase “regional office having jurisdiction over that territory” with “FRA Signal and Train Control Division Staff Director.”

## **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 administrative changes such as replacing references to specific penalty amounts with general references to the minimum civil monetary penalty, ordinary maximum civil monetary penalty, and aggravated maximum civil monetary penalty, referring readers to the CFR, and updating web 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 updating the language of part 236 to direct regulated entities to the appropriate agency subject matter expert to ensure information gets to the specific discipline.

##### **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.”<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

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

### **D. Paperwork Reduction Act**

This rule offers regulatory flexibilities, and it contains no new information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520), therefore, a submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is not required. The recordkeeping and reporting requirements already contained in part 236 became effective when they were approved by OMB on March 14, 2024. The OMB Control No. is 2130-0553 and the expiration date is March 31, 2027.

---

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

<sup>2</sup> 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.

#### **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 in 49 CFR Part 236**

Penalties, Positive train control, Railroad safety, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

### **The Final Rule**

In consideration of the foregoing, FRA amends part 236 of chapter II, subtitle B of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations as follows:

### **PART 236—RULES, STANDARDS, AND INSTRUCTIONS GOVERNING THE INSTALLATION, INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR OF SIGNAL AND TRAIN CONTROL SYSTEMS, DEVICES, AND APPLIANCES**

1. The authority citation for part 236 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 49 U.S.C. 20102-20103, 20107, 20133, 20141, 20157, 20301-20303, 20306, 20501-20505, 20701-20703, 21301-21302, 21304; 28 U.S.C. 2461 note; and 49 CFR 1.89.

2. Revise § 236.0(f) to read as follows:

**§ 236.0 Applicability, minimum requirements, and penalties.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(f) Any person (an entity of any type covered under 49 U.S.C. 21301, including the following: a railroad; a manager, supervisor, official, or other employee or agent of a railroad; any owner, manufacturer, lessor, or lessee of railroad equipment, track, or facilities; any independent contractor providing goods or services to a railroad; and any employee of such owner, manufacturer, lessor, lessee, or independent contractor) who violates any requirement of this part or causes the violation of any such requirement is subject to a civil penalty of at least the minimum civil monetary penalty and not more than the ordinary maximum civil monetary penalty per violation. However, penalties may be assessed against individuals only for willful violations, and a penalty not to exceed the aggravated maximum civil monetary penalty per violation may be assessed, where: A grossly negligent violation, or a pattern of repeated violations, has created an imminent hazard of death or injury to persons; or a death or injury has occurred. See 49 CFR part 209, appendix A. Each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. See FRA's website at <https://railroads.dot.gov/> for a statement of agency civil penalty policy.

\* \* \* \* \*

3. Revise § 236.1005(g), (h)(1), and (k) to read as follows:

**§ 236.1005 Requirements for Positive Train Control systems.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(g) *Temporary rerouting.* A train equipped with a PTC system as required by this subpart may be temporarily rerouted onto a track not equipped with a PTC system and a

train not equipped with a PTC system may be temporarily rerouted onto a track equipped with a PTC system as required by this subpart in the following circumstances:

(1) *Emergencies.* In the event of an emergency—including conditions such as derailment, flood, fire, tornado, hurricane, earthquake, or other similar circumstance outside of the railroad's control—that would prevent usage of the regularly used track if:

(i) The rerouting is applicable only until the emergency condition ceases to exist and for no more than 14 consecutive calendar days, unless otherwise extended by approval of the Associate Administrator;

(ii) The railroad provides written or telephonic notification to the FRA Signal and Train Control Division Staff Director of the information listed in paragraph (i) of this section within one business day of the beginning of the rerouting made in accordance with this paragraph; and

(iii) The conditions contained in paragraph (j) of this section are followed.

(2) *Planned maintenance.* In the event of planned maintenance that would prevent usage of the regularly used track if:

(i) The maintenance period does not exceed 30 days;

(ii) A request is filed with the FRA Signal and Train Control Division Staff Director in accordance with paragraph (i) of this section no less than 10 business days prior to the planned rerouting; and

(iii) The conditions contained in paragraph (j) of this section are followed.

(h) *Rerouting requests.* (1) For the purposes of paragraph (g)(2) of this section, the rerouting request shall be self-executing unless the FRA Signal and Train Control Division Staff Director responds with a notice disapproving of the rerouting or providing instructions to allow rerouting. Such instructions may include providing additional information to the Staff Director or Associate Administrator prior to the commencement of rerouting. Once the Staff Director responds with a notice under this paragraph, no

rerouting may occur until the Staff Director or Associate Administrator provides approval.

\* \* \* \* \*

(k) *Rerouting cessation.* The FRA Signal and Train Control Division Staff Director may order a railroad to cease any rerouting provided under paragraph (g) or (h) of this section.

4. Revise § 236.1029(g)(3)(iii) to read as follows:

**§ 236.1029 PTC system use and failures.**

\* \* \* \* \*

(g) \* \* \*

(3) \* \* \*

(iii) The railroad shall provide notice to the FRA Signal and Train Control Division Staff Director at least 7 days in advance of planned temporary disabling of PTC system service and contemporaneous notice for unplanned temporary disabling of PTC system service.

\* \* \* \* \*

Issued in Washington, DC.

**Kyle D. Fields,**  
*Chief Counsel.*

[FR Doc. 2025-12164 Filed: 6/27/2025 4:15 pm; Publication Date: 7/1/2025]