



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2020-0087]

Notice of Petition for Amendment of Waiver of Compliance

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public notice that Illinois Central Railroad Company, on behalf of itself and all US-based railroad subsidiaries of Canadian National Railway Company (CN), petitioned FRA for an amendment of relief from certain regulations concerning training requirements.

DATES: FRA must receive comments on the petition by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]**. FRA will consider comments received after that date to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES:

Comments: Comments related to this docket may be submitted by going to <https://www.regulations.gov> and following the online instructions for submitting comments.

Instructions: All submissions must include the agency name and docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>; this includes any personal information. Please see the Privacy Act heading in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document for Privacy Act information related to any submitted comments or materials.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and follow the online instructions for

accessing the docket.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Check Kam, Rail Safety Specialist, FRA Motive Power & Equipment Division, telephone: 202-366-2139, email: check.kam@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under part 211 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by letter dated August 13, 2025, CN petitioned FRA for an amendment of its existing relief from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 232, Brake System Safety Standards for Freight and Other Non-Passenger Trains and Equipment; End-of-Train Devices. The relevant Docket Number is FRA-2020-0087.

Specifically, CN was granted relief from § 232.203(b)(8), *Training requirements*, to use three-dimensional simulations using web-based or desktop software to satisfy the “hands-on” portion of required training, in connection with periodic refresher training, by letter dated May 2, 2023. In this petition, CN requests that three of the conditions of the May 2, 2023 letter be amended.

FRA’s first condition states that simulation training applies only to locomotive engineers and conductors responsible for performing Class I air brake tests, but CN seeks to expand the waiver to include field supervisors and employees performing repairs to freight cars. The third condition states that CN must alternate between refresher training cycles using simulation training and operational testing/field hands-on training, and CN seeks approval to use simulation training in every training cycle. Finally, the sixth condition allows CN employees to opt out of simulation training; CN seeks to remove that provision, except for certain circumstances. In support of its request, CN finds the first condition insufficient in training its field supervisors “and other employees responsible for either inspecting and testing air brakes” and asserts that the third and sixth conditions have “become arbitrary.”

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov.

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 and a public hearing, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

Communications received by **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]** will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

Privacy Act

Anyone can search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of FRA's dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the document, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). Under 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to inform its processes. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to www.regulations.gov, as described in the system of records notice (DOT/ALL-14 FDMS), which can be reviewed at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of www.regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,

Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,

Chief Safety Officer.