

## RCC Rail Safety, Dangerous Goods and Intelligent Transportation Systems Working Group: Rail Safety Standards Work Plan

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 U.S. Lead: Susan McDermott, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Aviation & International Affairs, Department of Transportation

Preamble Text:

Aligning the rail safety regulations will help to enhance the safety, efficiency and reliability of the rail system and ensure its continuance as a vital mode of transportation well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Timelines and Deliverables:

<b>Action Plan Initiative</b>	Align rail safety standards and establish a joint mechanism to conduct periodic reviews of regulations.	
<b>Deliverable outcome</b>	Canadian and U.S. regulators will meet to assess the impact of emerging regulations and standards and their effect on cross-border transportation. Areas of discussion will include: Risk Reduction Program; High Speed Rail Development; Positive Train Control Systems Amendments; Medical Guidelines for Certified Engineers & Conductors; and Critical Incident Stress Plans.	
<b>Action items</b>	Action Item 1: Discuss the following rail safety areas: Risk Reduction Program; High Speed Rail Development; Positive Train Control Systems Amendments; Medical Guidelines for Certified Engineers & Conductors; and Critical Incident Stress Plans.	Action Item 2: Explore the feasibility of developing a cooperation framework between both countries in order to establish ongoing and lasting aligned regulatory, compliance and monitoring programs.
	<b>Interim Deliverables</b>	
<b>3-6 Months</b>	TC, the U.S. Federal Rail Administration (FRA), and stakeholders will participate in the Trans Border Working Group’s Passenger Rail Discussion Group. Further TC, FRA, and stakeholders will meet regularly through the Railroad Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) and the Advisory Committee on Rail Safety (ACRS) to discuss and coordinate efforts regarding the following areas: Risk Reduction Program; High Speed Rail Development; Positive Train Control Systems Amendments; Medical Guidelines for Certified Engineers & Conductors; and Critical Incident Stress Plans.	Identify scope and elements to be included in the joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to align the regulatory, compliance and monitoring processes. Including consideration for the following: 1. Harmonization of regulatory requirements wherever practicable. 2. Where harmonization is not practicable, recognize regulatory reciprocity. 3. Where possible and appropriate, use other regulatory or non-regulatory approaches to maintain safety while facilitating cross-border rail transportation.
	Joint Government and Industry meeting for stakeholder consultation on transborder regulatory issues, including seeking further input on border zone concept.	

<b>6-12 Months</b>	As part of the Engineering Task Force, develop standards for High Speed equipment.	Complete analysis and draft report on possible options for a joint cooperation framework between both countries, including the possible establishment of a regulatory border zone concept.
<b>12-18 Months</b>	Review and submit options and recommendations for possible rulemaking amendments.	Initiate process to establish a joint cooperation framework between both countries that will align the regulatory, compliance and monitoring regimes.
<b>Beyond 18 Months</b>	Initiate and implement any identified rulemaking amendments in order to establish alignment, if required, between both countries.	Implement joint cooperation framework that aligns the regulatory, compliance and monitoring regimes between both countries.

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