

In this section, the word “visibility” is substituted for “conspicuity” for clarity and consistency in this chapter.

In subsection (a), the words “by means of lighting, reflective materials, or other means” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), the words “those lights” are substituted for “such measures” for clarity.

In subsection (c), the word “Secretary’s” is substituted for “Department of Transportation’s” because of 49:102(b). The word “using” is substituted for “having . . . in service” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (e)(2) and (3) of this section, the reference is to paragraph (1) of this subsection, rather than to subsection (d) of this section, because the regulations are prescribed under paragraph (1).

In subsection (e)(2), the words “a category” are substituted for “and category” to correct an apparent mistake in the source provision. See S. Rept. 102-990, 102d Cong., 2d Sess., p. 18 (1992).

In subsection (e)(3), the word “full” is omitted as surplus.

§ 20144. Blue signal protection for on-track vehicles

The Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe regulations applying blue signal protection to on-track vehicles where rest is provided. (Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 881.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
20144	(unclassified).	June 22, 1988, Pub. L. 100-342, §19(c), 102 Stat. 638.

The words “prescribe regulations” are substituted for “within one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, amend part 218 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations” because the regulations to carry out this section have been prescribed.

§ 20145. Report on bridge displacement detection systems

Not later than 18 months after November 2, 1994, the Secretary of Transportation shall transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report concerning any action that has been taken by the Secretary on railroad bridge displacement detection systems.

(Added Pub. L. 103-440, title II, §207(a), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4621; amended Pub. L. 104-287, §5(48), (49), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3393.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-287 substituted “November 2, 1994” for “the date of enactment of the Federal Railroad Safety Authorization Act of 1994” and “Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure” for “Committee on Energy and Commerce”.

§ 20146. Institute for Railroad Safety

The Secretary of Transportation, in conjunction with a university or college having expertise in transportation safety, shall establish, within one year after November 2, 1994, an Institute for Railroad Safety. The Institute shall research, develop, fund, and test measures for reducing the number of fatalities and injuries rel-

evant to railroad operations. There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$1,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1996 through 2000 to fund activities carried out under this section by the Institute, which shall report at least once each year on its use of such funds in carrying out such activities and the results thereof to the Secretary of Transportation and the Congress.

(Added Pub. L. 103-440, title II, §210(a), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4621; amended Pub. L. 104-287, §5(49), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3393.)

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-287 substituted “November 2, 1994” for “the date of enactment of the Federal Railroad Safety Authorization Act of 1994”.

§ 20147. Warning of civil liability

The Secretary of Transportation shall encourage railroad carriers to warn the public about potential liability for violation of regulations related to vandalism of railroad signs, devices, and equipment and to trespassing on railroad property.

(Added Pub. L. 103-440, title II, §211(a), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4622.)

§ 20148. Railroad car visibility

(a) REVIEW OF RULES.—The Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a review of the Department of Transportation’s rules with respect to railroad car visibility. As part of this review, the Secretary shall collect relevant data from operational experience by railroads having enhanced visibility measures in service.

(b) REGULATIONS.—If the review conducted under subsection (a) establishes that enhanced railroad car visibility would likely improve safety in a cost-effective manner, the Secretary shall initiate a rulemaking proceeding to prescribe regulations requiring enhanced visibility standards for newly manufactured and remanufactured railroad cars. In such proceeding the Secretary shall consider, at a minimum—

- (1) visibility of railroad cars from the perspective of nonrailroad traffic;
- (2) whether certain railroad car paint colors should be prohibited or required;
- (3) the use of reflective materials;
- (4) the visibility of lettering on railroad cars;
- (5) the effect of any enhanced visibility measures on the health and safety of train crew members; and
- (6) the cost/benefit ratio of any new regulations.

(c) EXCLUSIONS.—In prescribing regulations under subsection (b), the Secretary may exclude from any specific visibility requirement any category of trains or railroad operations if the Secretary determines that such an exclusion is in the public interest and is consistent with railroad safety.

(Added Pub. L. 103-440, title II, §212(a), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4622.)

§ 20149. Coordination with the Department of Labor

The Secretary of Transportation shall consult with the Secretary of Labor on a regular basis

to ensure that all applicable laws affecting safe working conditions for railroad employees are appropriately enforced to ensure a safe and productive working environment for the railroad industry.

(Added Pub. L. 103-440, title II, §213(a), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4623.)

§ 20150. Positive train control system progress report

The Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report to the Congress on the development, deployment, and demonstration of positive train control systems by December 31, 1995.

(Added Pub. L. 103-440, title II, §214(a), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4623.)

§ 20151. Railroad trespassing, vandalism, and highway-rail grade crossing warning sign violation prevention strategy

(a) EVALUATION OF EXISTING LAWS.—In consultation with affected parties, the Secretary of Transportation shall evaluate and review current local, State, and Federal laws regarding trespassing on railroad property, vandalism affecting railroad safety, and violations of highway-rail grade crossing signs, signals, markings, or other warning devices and develop model prevention strategies and enforcement laws to be used for the consideration of State and local legislatures and governmental entities. The first such evaluation and review shall be completed within 1 year after the date of enactment of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008. The Secretary shall revise the model prevention strategies and enforcement codes periodically.

(b) OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR TRESPASSING AND VANDALISM PREVENTION.—The Secretary shall develop and maintain a comprehensive outreach program to improve communications among Federal railroad safety inspectors, State inspectors certified by the Federal Railroad Administration, railroad police, and State and local law enforcement officers, for the purpose of addressing trespassing and vandalism problems on railroad property, and strengthening relevant enforcement strategies. This program shall be designed to increase public and police awareness of the illegality of, dangers inherent in, and the extent of, trespassing on railroad rights-of-way, to develop strategies to improve the prevention of trespassing and vandalism, and to improve the enforcement of laws relating to railroad trespass, vandalism, and safety.

(c) MODEL LEGISLATION.—(1) Within 18 months after November 2, 1994, the Secretary, after consultation with State and local governments and railroad carriers, shall develop and make available to State and local governments model State legislation providing for—

(A) civil or criminal penalties, or both, for vandalism of railroad equipment or property which could affect the safety of the public or of railroad employees; and

(B) civil or criminal penalties, or both, for trespassing on a railroad owned or leased right-of-way.

(2) Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Rail Safety Improvement Act

of 2008, the Secretary, after consultation with State and local governments and railroad carriers, shall develop and make available to State and local governments model State legislation providing for civil or criminal penalties, or both, for violations of highway-rail grade crossing signs, signals, markings, or other warning devices.

(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “violation of highway-rail grade crossing signs, signals, markings, or other warning devices” includes any action by a motorist, unless directed by an authorized safety officer—

(1) to drive around a grade crossing gate in a position intended to block passage over railroad tracks;

(2) to drive through a flashing grade crossing signal;

(3) to drive through a grade crossing with passive warning signs without ensuring that the grade crossing could be safely crossed before any train arrived; and

(4) in the vicinity of a grade crossing, who creates a hazard of an accident involving injury or property damage at the grade crossing.

(Added Pub. L. 103-440, title II, §219(a), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4625; amended Pub. L. 104-287, §5(49), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3393; Pub. L. 110-432, div. A, title II, §208(a), Oct. 16, 2008, 122 Stat. 4875.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (c)(2), is the date of enactment of div. A of Pub. L. 110-432, which was approved Oct. 16, 2008.

AMENDMENTS

2008—Pub. L. 110-432, §208(a)(1), substituted “Railroad trespassing, vandalism, and highway-rail grade crossing warning sign violation prevention strategy” for “Railroad trespassing and vandalism prevention strategy” in section catchline.

Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 110-432, §208(a)(2), added subsec. (a) and struck out former subsec. (a). Prior amendment, text read as follows: “In consultation with affected parties, the Secretary of Transportation shall evaluate and review current local, State, and Federal laws regarding trespassing on railroad property and vandalism affecting railroad safety, and develop model prevention strategies and enforcement laws to be used for the consideration of State and local legislatures and governmental entities. The first such evaluation and review shall be completed within 1 year after November 2, 1994. The Secretary shall revise such model prevention strategies and enforcement codes periodically.”

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 110-432, §208(a)(3), inserted “for Trespassing and Vandalism Prevention” after “Outreach Program” in heading.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 110-432, §208(a)(4), designated existing provisions as par. (1), redesignated former pars. (1) and (2) as subpars. (A) and (B), respectively, of par. (1), and added par. (2).

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-432, §208(a)(5), added subsec. (d).

1996—Subsecs. (a), (c). Pub. L. 104-287 substituted “November 2, 1994” for “the date of enactment of the Federal Railroad Safety Authorization Act of 1994”.

§ 20152. Notification of grade crossing problems

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008, the Secretary of Transportation shall require each railroad carrier to—