

deadheading provision of the Federal hours of service laws. Affected SPT train employees (engineers and trainmen) operate under an agreement, commonly known as the Los Angeles Basin agreement (agreement), in unassigned freight pool service (BLE) and pool freight service (UTU) between Los Angeles (LATC) and West Colton, California. Train employees called for service under this agreement may go on or off duty at LATC, Dolores (ICTF) or West Colton.

FRA has interpreted the Federal hours of service laws as requiring that deadheading time include personal automobile travel to a point of duty assignment other than the regular reporting point of an individual train employee. SPT, BLE and UTU seek waiver relief from FRA's interpretation to allow train employees covered by the agreement to report on or off duty at the identified locations without including personal automobile travel time as time on duty for purposes of 49 U.S.C. 21103(b)(4).

The SPT, BLE, and UTU state "that the agreements will positively impact safety by allowing each employee to have additional rest between tours of duty thereby providing less stress." The petitioners also state "it is expected that these agreements will result in less personnel turnover on these assignments."

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

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the waiver petition docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number HS-96-01) and must be submitted in triplicate to the Docket Clerk, Office of Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590.

Communications received within 30 days of the date of publication of this notice will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable. All written communications concerning these proceedings are available for examination during regular business hours (9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) in room 8201, Nassif Building, 400 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20590.

Issued in Washington, DC on February 1, 1996.

Phil Olekszyk,

Deputy Associate Administrator for Safety Compliance and Program Implementation.

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Ensuring Tank Car Safety

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of public information meeting.

SUMMARY: The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announces a public meeting to discuss the safety of tank car builders, users, and transporters.

DATES: The public meeting will be held February 13 and 14, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James H. Rader, Hazardous Materials Specialist, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance, (202) 366-0510, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Internet address: JRADER@intergate.dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FRA is hosting a public information meeting in Houston, Texas on February 13 and 14, 1996 on "Ensuring Tank Car Safety." At the meeting, representatives of FRA, the Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA), the tank car industry, railroad transportation companies, petroleum and chemical producers, and state and local emergency response personnel will discuss the safety needs of the industry. They will highlight current and future planned efforts in research, regulatory development, and industry standards.

During the meeting, FRA and RSPA will seek the opinions of shippers and tank car owners, of state and local government officials, emergency responders, and the public about the focus of current efforts to ensure tank car safety. Representatives of governmental agencies and private enterprises will discuss the priorities to be given current and future FRA-sponsored research and rulemaking efforts as well as activities sponsored by industry.

The FRA anticipates that this meeting will provide a clear direction for gaining the greatest impact for public and private research dollars. In addition, both government and industry want to be certain that, to the maximum extent possible, governmental regulations and private industry standards are fully coordinated. The FRA appreciates the additional stimulus provided for the

February seminar by the Recommendations in National Research Council's Special Report #243, *Ensuring Railroad Tank Car Safety*, (Transportation Research Board, National Research Council, © 1994).

Conference space is limited and pre-registration is required. To participate in the public information meeting, participants must register and receive confirmation from Mr. James H. Rader, Federal Railroad Administration at (202) 366-0510 [Internet address: JRADER@intergate.dot.gov], Washington D.C.

Issued at Washington, DC, pursuant to the authority of 49 U.S.C. 5121, 20103, 20107, and 20108; and 49 CFR 1.49.

Jolene M. Molitoris,

Administrator.

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BILLING CODE 4910-06-M

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Safety Performance Standards, Research and Safety Assurance Programs Meetings

AGENCY: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of NHTSA Industry Meetings.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a public meeting at which NHTSA will answer questions from the public and the automobile industry regarding the agency's vehicle regulatory, safety assurance and other programs. In addition, NHTSA will hold two separate public meetings to describe and discuss specific research and development projects and to seek information on the safety of mirror systems.

DATES: The Agency's regular, quarterly public meeting relating to its vehicle regulatory, safety assurance and other programs will be held on March 13, 1996, beginning at 9:45 a.m. and ending at approximately 12:30 p.m. Questions relating to the above programs must be submitted in writing by March 1, 1996, to the address shown below. If sufficient time is available, questions received after March 1, may be answered at the meeting. The individual, group or company submitting a question(s) does not have to be present for the question(s) to be answered. A consolidated list of the questions submitted by March 1, 1996, and the issues to be discussed will be transmitted to interested persons by March 6, 1996, and will be available at the meeting. Also, the agency will hold a second public meeting on March 12,