

of rail, to be tested every 60 to 365 days. BNSF is proposing to test these subdivisions every 30–45 days.

The nonstop continuous tests will be conducted with self-propelled ultrasonic rail flaw detection vehicles capable of data acquisition speeds up to 30 mph. Upon completion of each daily run, the acquired data will be analyzed offline by technical experts with specific analysis tools proven to be effective on a worldwide basis for over 10 years, including the most recent several years of experience in the United States. The analysis process will provide the categorization and prioritization of suspect locations to be verified in the field.

Field verification will be conducted by qualified and certified rail test professionals with validation equipment based on global positioning system location and known track features identified within the flaw detection electronic record. All verifications will occur within 72 hours from completion of the data acquisition test run. Remedial actions will be applied based on the regulations set for in 49 CFR 213.113, *Defective rails*, for confirmed rail defect locations.

BNSF believes nonstop continuous rail testing will provide the capability to reduce service failure and derailment risk through implementation of advanced technologies and processes that enable BNSF to more completely and frequently conduct the inspection for their rail network.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12–140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

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 for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number (e.g., Waiver Petition Docket Number FRA–2015–0130) and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- Fax: 202–493–2251.

- Mail: Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12–140, Washington, DC 20590.

- Hand Delivery: 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by January 25, 2016 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our 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.). In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better 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 www.dot.gov/privacy. See also <http://www.regulations.gov/#/privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Robert C. Lauby,

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA–2015–0127]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated November 3, 2015, General Electric Transportation (GE) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 229, Railroad Locomotive Safety Standards. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2015–0127.

GE has requested a waiver of compliance from the requirement of 49

CFR 229.129(b)(1), that each locomotive (or a sampling of similar locomotives) be tested for compliance with the sound level requirements given in 49 CFR 229.129(a)(1) prior to entering service, for 31 new ET44AC Locomotives to be delivered to CSX Transportation (CSX) and numbered CSX 3375 to CSX 3405. The locomotives will be manufactured in Erie, PA, and delivered to purchasers from January through March 2016, when weather conditions will likely preclude successful testing in accordance with 49 CFR 229.129(c)(6). GE requests that the deadline for completing the horn testing on these locomotives be extended until September 30, 2016. In support of this petition, GE has submitted data showing that horns on the previous 2015 model ET44AC locomotives were compliant with both high and low sound level requirements, with some margin above the minimum and below the maximum. GE also submitted illustrations demonstrating that the horn location has not been altered and that the only concern is changes in the component of the horn noise affected by reflectance off the roof and roof discontinuities on the 2016 model locomotives. Changes are generally less than 2 inches.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12–140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

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 for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- Web site: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

- Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.

- Fax: 202–493–2251.

- Mail: Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12–140, Washington, DC 20590.

- Hand Delivery: 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12–140,

Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by January 25, 2016 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our 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.). In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better 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 www.dot.gov/privacy. See also <http://www.regulations.gov/#!privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Robert C. Lauby,

Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety, Chief Safety Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015-32452 Filed 12-23-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2015-0131]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated September 22, 2015, Keolis Commuter Services (Keolis), contract operator of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTX) commuter rail system, has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 238, Passenger Equipment Safety Standards. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2015-0131.

Keolis seeks a temporary waiver of compliance from the requirements of 49 CFR 238.115(b)(2) regarding passenger car emergency lighting until October 31, 2016. Keolis is seeking this temporary relief because 70 percent of its rolling stock fleet (233 of 332 coaches encompassing series: 200, 300, 500, 600, 700, 1500, 1600, and 1700), ordered

prior to September 8, 2000, and placed into service prior to September 9, 2002, will not meet the emergency lighting requirement deadline of December 31, 2015. Keolis justifies the need for this deadline because of the delay in finding qualified vendors and adding the required labor forces to successfully complete this installation. MBTX rolling stock fleet was not in compliance with all applicable safety standards. The extra time sought in this petition will allow Keolis to finish its ongoing program (58 coaches have been upgraded to date) so that 70 percent of this rolling stock is in compliance.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12-140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

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 for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- *Web site:* <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- *Fax:* 202-493-2251.
- *Mail:* Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12-140, Washington, DC 20590.
- *Hand Delivery:* 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by February 8, 2016 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our 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.). In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 553(c), DOT solicits comments from the public to better 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 www.dot.gov/privacy. See also <http://www.regulations.gov/#!privacyNotice> for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Robert C. Lauby,

Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety, Chief Safety Officer.

[FR Doc. 2015-32454 Filed 12-23-15; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2015-0132]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated September 22, 2015, the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation (Metra) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 238, Passenger Equipment Safety Standards. FRA assigned the petition docket number FRA-2015-0132.

Metra seeks a 6-month waiver of compliance from the requirements of 49 CFR 238.115(b)(1)-(2) regarding passenger car emergency lighting (until June 30, 2016). Metra is seeking this temporary relief because 70 percent of its passenger rolling stock fleet of 544 coaches, which were ordered prior to September 8, 2000, and placed into service prior to September 9, 2002, will not meet the emergency lighting requirement deadline of December 31, 2015. Metra justifies the need for this deadline extension because of ongoing funding and technical difficulties. The extra time sought in this petition will allow Metra to retrofit 70 percent of its passenger rolling stock fleet to meet the requirements.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12-140,