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Issued in Washington, DC.

**John Karl Alexy,**  
Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,  
Chief Safety Officer.

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**BILLING CODE 4910-06-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2021-0042]

#### Notice of Petition for Waiver of Compliance

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides the public notice that Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) petitioned FRA for relief from certain regulations concerning training requirements.

**DATES:** FRA must receive comments on the petition by February 23, 2026. 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](mailto: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 undated letter received October 10, 2025 UPRR petitioned FRA for 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-2021-0042.

Specifically, UPRR seeks 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 periodic refresher training for transportation employees.<sup>1</sup> UPRR states that it believes the “systematic, blending training curriculum . . . exceeds the training objectives” of the regulations.

In support of its request, UPRR states that “using simulations enhances employee safety by allowing learners to practice in controlled, low-risk settings, reducing the chance of incidents or injuries compared to a real-world training.” Further, UPRR suggests that that the “more controlled training environment allows UP’s designated instructors to observe and evaluate a user’s ability,” reduces subjectivity of evaluators, and is more user-centered, as it is self-paced.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at [www.regulations.gov](http://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 February 23, 2026 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](http://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 [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov).

Issued in Washington, DC.

**John Karl Alexy,**  
Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,  
Chief Safety Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026-01327 Filed 1-22-26; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2014-0127]

#### Notice of Petition for Extension of Waiver of Compliance

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides the public notice that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, on behalf of the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), petitioned FRA to extend relief related to MBTA’s participation in FRA’s Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C<sup>3</sup>RS) Program.

**DATES:** FRA must receive comments on the petition by February 23, 2026. 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.

<sup>1</sup> UPRR notes that this petition is a resubmittal, as FRA denied UPRR’s past request in this docket in <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2021-0042-0006>.

**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:**

Ronald O. Simpson, Railroad Safety Specialist, FRA Safety Partnerships Division, telephone: 314-202-2971, email: [ronald.o.simpson@dot.gov](mailto:ronald.o.simpson@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 October 7, 2025, MBTA petitioned FRA for an extension of a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 240 (Qualification and Certification of Locomotive Engineers) and part 242 (Qualification and Certification of Conductors). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2014-0127.

Specifically, MBTA requests an extension of the relief required to continue its participation in FRA's C<sup>3</sup>RS Program. MBTA seeks to continue shielding reporting employees from mandatory punitive sanctions that would otherwise arise as provided in §§ 240.117(e)(1)-(4); 240.305(a)(1)-(4) and (a)(6); 240.307; 242.403(b), (c), (e)(1)-(4), (e)(6)-(11), (f)(1)-(2); and 242.407. The C<sup>3</sup>RS Program encourages certified operating crew members to report close calls and protects the employees and the railroad from discipline or sanctions arising from the incidents reported per the C<sup>3</sup>RS Implementing Memorandum of Understanding (IMOU). The IMOU includes MBTA's operating partner, Keolis Commuter Services, and several participating labor unions.

In support of its request, MBTA states that the C<sup>3</sup>RS program has resulted in safety improvements, including additional signage to "address recurring equipment-based restrictions," a sleep apnea program, and, in compliance with 49 CFR part 270, a "comprehensive risk assessment methodology".

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at [www.regulations.gov](https://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 February 23, 2026 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](https://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 [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

Issued in Washington, DC.

**John Karl Alexy,**

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

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Railroad Administration**

**[Docket Number FRA-2023-0081]**

**Notice of Petition for Modification of Waiver of Compliance**

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

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This document provides the public notice that the Southern California Regional Rail Authority, Alstom, and Hallcon (Petitioners) petitioned FRA to modify relief related to Metrolink's participation in FRA's Confidential Close Call Reporting System (C<sup>3</sup>RS) Program.

**DATES:** FRA must receive comments on the petition by February 23, 2026. 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:**

Ronald O. Simpson, Railroad Safety Specialist, FRA Safety Partnerships Division, telephone: 314-202-2971, email: [ronald.o.simpson@dot.gov](mailto:ronald.o.simpson@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Under part 211 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by letter received November 24, 2025, Petitioners petitioned FRA for a modification of a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 240 (Qualification and Certification of Locomotive Engineers) and part 242 (Qualification and Certification of Conductors). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2023-0081.

Specifically, Petitioners wish to modify the signatories of the IMOU to include Joshua Grading and Excavating. In addition, Petitioners seek to expand the scope of the IMOU to include employees operating trains throughout the Metrolink system who were previously employed by Amtrak. Since a contract change in July 2025, they are now employed by Alstom.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at [www.regulations.gov](https://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 because 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 February 23, 2026 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.