

regulations concerning periodic testing requirements on vital microprocessor-based signal systems.

DATES: FRA must receive comments on the petition by August 31, 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:

Scott Johnson, Railroad Safety Specialist, FRA Signal, Train Control, and Crossings Division, telephone: 406-657-6642, email: scott.j.johnson@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 May 8, 2026, UP petitioned FRA for an extension of a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 236 (Rules, Standards, and Instructions Governing the Installation, Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair of Signal and Train Control Systems, Devices, and Appliances). The relevant Docket Number is FRA-2009-0116.

Specifically, UP seeks an extension of relief from the 2-year periodic testing requirements in §§ 236.377, *Approach locking*; 236.378, *Time locking*; 236.379, *Route locking*; 236.380, *Indication locking*; and 236.381, *Traffic locking*, related to vital microprocessor-based systems. The existing relief extends the testing requirements in these sections from “at least once every 2 years” to every 4 years, after initial testing is completed. In its petition, UP states that “[e]liminating test redundancies improves safety by limiting disruption to signal circuits and train operations and reducing potential employee

exposures and instances of track fouling.”

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at 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 August 31, 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, 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 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-2011-0071]

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 Canadian National

Railway Company (CN) petitioned FRA for an extension of relief from certain regulations concerning periodic testing requirements on vital microprocessor-based signal systems.

DATES: FRA must receive comments on the petition by August 31, 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:

Scott Johnson, Railroad Safety Specialist, FRA Signal, Train Control, and Crossings Division, telephone: 406-657-6642, email: scott.j.johnson@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 May 13, 2026, CN petitioned FRA for an extension of a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 236 (Rules, Standards, and Instructions Governing the Installation, Inspection, Maintenance, and Repair of Signal and Train Control Systems, Devices, and Appliances). The relevant Docket Number is FRA-2011-0071.

Specifically, CN seeks an extension of relief from the 2-year periodic testing requirements in §§ 236.377, *Approach locking*; 236.378, *Time locking*; 236.379, *Route locking*; 236.380, *Indication locking*; and 236.381, *Traffic locking*, related to vital microprocessor-based systems. The existing relief extends the testing requirements in these sections from “at least once every 2 years” to every 4 years, after initial testing is completed. In its petition, CN stated that “[t]here have been no safety incidents resulting from the waiver and no false clears as a result of modified testing.”

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at 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 August 31, 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, 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://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 Transit Administration

[Docket No. FTA-2026-0133]

Notice of Proposed Buy America Waiver for North County Transit District DMU Replacement Parts and Request for Comment

AGENCY: Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) received a request from the North County Transit District

(NCTD) for a Buy America nonavailability waiver for the procurement of certain replacement parts for 12 Siemens Desiro-series Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) vehicles. FTA is providing notice of the nonavailability waiver request and seeks public comment before deciding whether to grant the request. If granted, the waiver would apply to the replacement parts identified in the waiver request for the 12 DMU vehicles only.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 15, 2026. Late-filed comments will be considered only to the extent practicable.

ADDRESSES: Please submit all comments electronically to the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and follow the instructions for submitting comments. All comments must refer to the Federal Transit Administration and docket number FTA-2026-0133. Note that all submissions received, including any personal information provided, will be posted without change and will be available to the public. You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the **Federal Register** published April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477), or at <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jaamal Jennings, FTA Attorney-Advisor, at Jaamal.Jennings@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of this notice is to seek public comment on whether the FTA should grant a nonavailability waiver to NCTD for the procurement of certain replacement parts for 12 DMU vehicles used for NCTD's Sprinter light rail service.

Background

With certain exceptions, FTA's Buy America statute prohibits FTA from obligating funds for a project unless "the steel, iron, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the United States." 49 U.S.C. 5323(j)(1).

FTA may waive Buy America requirements for a product if, among other reasons, a compliant version of an item is not produced in a sufficient and reasonably available amount or is not of a satisfactory quality. 49 U.S.C. 5323(j)(2)(B). FTA cannot deny a request for a waiver unless it can provide the waiver requester with a written certification that (1) the item is produced in the United States in a sufficient and reasonably available amount; (2) the item produced in the United States is of a satisfactory quality; and (3) includes a list of known manufacturers in the United States from

which the item can be obtained. 49 U.S.C. 5323(j)(6)(A).

NCTD is the owner and operator of the Sprinter light rail service, which runs 22 miles from Oceanside to Escondido in San Diego County with 15 passenger stations. The fleet consists of 12 Siemens Desiro-series DMUs procured in 2003 pursuant to a previous Buy America waiver. On April 10, 2025, NCTD issued a solicitation for the replacement parts with technical specifications included in the Request for Proposals (RFP). A single bidder responded, representing it could attain Buy America compliance for 12 of the parts specified in the RFP and noncompliance for 15 other parts. Following the RFP, NCTD submitted a supplier scouting opportunity (scouting number 2025-368) through the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST-MEP) in compliance with Section 70916(c) of the Build America, Buy America Act (Pub. L. 117-58, November 15, 2021). NIST-MEP identified no manufacturer matches for the opportunity. NCTD estimates the total cost of goods subject to this proposed waiver, including parts, technical support, and materials management, to be approximately \$2.8 million per year. All replacement parts must be compatible with the 2003 Siemens Desiro-series DMUs.

FTA previously waived the Buy America requirements for certain replacement parts for the DMU vehicles in 2016. 81 FR 89570 (Dec. 12, 2016).

Proposed Waiver

FTA proposes waiving Buy America requirements for the following parts identified as noncompliant with the Buy America requirements but that are necessary to keep NCTD's DMUs in a state of good repair:¹

1. Power Truck Assembly (A End)
2. Power Truck Assembly (B End)
3. Jakobs Truck Assembly
4. Transmission
5. A/C Compressors
6. Passenger Bellows
7. Passenger Information System
8. Passenger Door System
9. Threshold, Sliding Step
10. Windows
11. Axle Journal Bearings

¹ For technical specifications of the parts as described in the RFP, see North County Transit District, Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) Replacement Parts solicitation, PlanetBids Vendor Portal: Bid Opportunity Detail, <https://vendors.planetbids.com/portal/20134/bo/bo-detail/128254>; and Solicitation Documents (Apr. 10, 2025), <https://files-prod01.planetbids.com/NCTD/BMfiles/20250410124242017%2035747-04-06-Solicitation%20Documents.pdf>.