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the special directive was issued, information in response to any alleged violation or in mitigation thereof, recommend alternative means of compliance for consideration, and any other information deemed appropriate by the recipient.

(e) *Request for extension.* Upon written request, the Administrator may extend the time for filing a request for reconsideration for good cause shown.

(f) *Filing a petition for reconsideration.* A petition must be submitted to the Office of the Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, using one of the following methods—

(1) Email to FTA, sent to an email address provided in the notice of special directive;

(2) Facsimile to FTA at 202-366-9854; or

(3) Mail to FTA at: FTA, Office of the Administrator, 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE., Washington, DC 20590.

(g) *Processing of petitions for reconsideration—(1) General.* Each petition received under this section will be reviewed and disposed of by the Administrator no later than ninety days (90) after receipt of the petition. No hearing, argument or other proceeding will be held directly on a petition before its disposition under this section.

(2) *Grants.* If the Administrator determines the petition contains adequate justification, he or she may grant the petition, in whole or in part.

(3) *Denials.* If the Administrator determines the petition does not justify modifying, rescinding or revoking the directive, in whole or in part, he or she may deny the petition.

(4) *Notification.* The Administrator will issue notification to a recipient of his or her decision.

(h) *Judicial review.* A recipient may seek judicial review in an appropriate United States District Court after a final action of FTA under this section, as provided in 5 U.S.C. 701-706.

§ 670.29 Advisories.

In any instance in which the Administrator determines there are hazards or risks to public transportation, the Administrator may issue an advisory which recommends corrective actions, inspections, conditions, limitations or other actions to avoid or mitigate any

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hazards or risks. The Administrator will issue notice to recipients of an advisory in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

Subpart D—National Public Transportation Safety Plan

§ 670.31 Purpose and contents of the National Public Transportation Safety Plan.

Periodically, FTA will issue a National Public Transportation Safety Plan to improve the safety of all public transportation systems that receive funding under 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53. The National Public Transportation Safety Plan will include the following—

(a) Safety performance criteria for all modes of public transportation, established through public notice and comment;

(b) The definition of *state of good repair*;

(c) Minimum safety performance standards for vehicles in revenue operations, established through public notice and comment;

(d) Minimum performance standards for public transportation operations established through public notice and comment;

(e) The Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program;

(f) Safety advisories, directives and reports;

(g) Best practices, technical assistance, templates and other tools;

(h) Research, reports, data and information on hazard identification and risk management in public transportation, and guidance regarding the prevention of accidents and incidents in public transportation; and

(i) Any other content as determined by FTA.

PART 671 [RESERVED]

PART 672—PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAFETY CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM (EFF. until 11-01-24)

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APPENDIX A TO PART 672—PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAFETY CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM

AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 5329(c) and (f), and 49 CFR 1.91.

SOURCE: 83 FR 34067, July 19, 2018, unless otherwise noted.

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 89 FR 66007, Aug. 14, 2024, part 672 was revised, effective Nov. 1, 2024. For the convenience of the user, the new part 672 follows the text of this part.

Subpart A—General Provisions**§ 672.1 Purpose.**

(a) This part implements a uniform safety certification training curriculum and requirements to enhance the technical proficiency of individuals who conduct safety audits and examinations of public transportation systems operated by public transportation agencies and those who are directly responsible for safety oversight of public transportation agencies.

(b) This part does not preempt any safety certification training requirements required by a State for public transportation agencies within its jurisdiction.

§ 672.3 Scope and applicability.

(a) In general, this part applies to all recipients of Federal financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. chapter 53.

(b) The mandatory requirements of this part will apply only to State Safety Oversight Agency personnel and contractors that conduct safety audits and examinations of rail fixed guideway public transportation systems, and designated personnel and contractors who are directly responsible for the

safety oversight of a recipient's rail fixed guideway public transportation systems.

(c) Other FTA recipients may participate voluntarily in accordance with this part.

§ 672.5 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Administrator means the Federal Transit Administrator or the Administrator's designee.

Contractor means an entity that performs tasks on behalf of FTA, a State Safety Oversight Agency, or public transportation agency through contract or other agreement.

Designated personnel means:

(1) Employees and contractors identified by a recipient whose job function is directly responsible for safety oversight of the public transportation system of the public transportation agency; or

(2) Employees and contractors of a State Safety Oversight Agency whose job function requires them to conduct safety audits and examinations of the rail fixed guideway public transportation systems subject to the jurisdiction of the agency.

Directly responsible for safety oversight means public transportation agency personnel whose primary job function includes the development, implementation and review of the agency's safety plan, and/or the SSOA requirements for the rail fixed guideway public transportation system pursuant to 49 CFR parts 659 or 674.

Examination means a process for gathering or analyzing facts or information related to the safety of a public transportation system.

FTA means the Federal Transit Administration.

Public transportation agency means an entity that provides public transportation service as defined in 49 U.S.C. 5302 and that has one or more modes of service not subject to the safety oversight requirements of another Federal agency.

Rail fixed guideway public transportation system means any fixed guideway system as defined in § 674.7 of this chapter.

§ 672.11

Recipient means a State or local governmental authority, or any other operator of a public transportation system receiving financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. chapter 53.

Safety audit means a review or analysis of safety records and related materials, including, but not limited to, those related to financial accounts.

State means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands.

State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) means an agency established by a State that meets the requirements and performs the functions specified by 49 U.S.C. 5329(e) and the regulations set forth in 49 CFR parts 659 and 674.

Subpart B—Training Requirements

§ 672.11 Designated personnel who conduct safety audits and examinations.

(a) Each SSOA shall designate its personnel and contractors who conduct safety audits and examinations of public transportation systems, including appropriate managers and supervisors of such personnel, that must comply with the applicable training requirements of Appendix A to this part.

(b) Designated personnel shall complete applicable training requirements of this part within three (3) years of their initial designation. Thereafter, refresher training shall be completed every two (2) years. The SSOA shall determine refresher training requirements which must include, at a minimum, one (1) hour of safety oversight training.

§ 672.13 Designated personnel of public transportation agencies.

(a) Each recipient that operates a rail fixed guideway public transportation system shall designate its personnel and contractors who are directly responsible for safety oversight and ensure their compliance with the applicable training requirements set forth in Appendix A to this part.

(b) Each recipient that operates a bus or other public transportation system not subject to the safety oversight of another Federal agency may designate

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its personnel who are directly responsible for safety oversight to participate in the applicable training requirements as set forth in Appendix A to this part.

(c) Personnel designated under paragraph (a) of this section shall complete applicable training requirements of this part within three (3) years of their initial designation. Thereafter, refresher training shall be completed every two (2) years. The recipient shall determine refresher training requirements which must include, at a minimum, one (1) hour of safety oversight training.

§ 672.15 Evaluation of prior certification and training.

(a) Designated personnel subject to this part may request that FTA evaluate safety training or certification previously obtained from another entity to determine if the training satisfies an applicable training requirement of this part.

(b) Designated personnel must provide FTA with an official transcript or certificate of the training, a description of the curriculum and competencies obtained, and a brief statement detailing how the training or certification satisfies the applicable requirements of this part.

(c) FTA will evaluate the submission and determine if a training requirement of this part may be waived. If a waiver is granted, designated personnel are responsible for completing all other applicable requirements of this part.

Subpart C—Administrative Requirements.

§ 672.21 Records.

(a) *General requirement.* Each recipient shall ensure that its designated personnel are enrolled in the PTSCTP. Each recipient shall ensure that designated personnel update their individual training record as he or she completes the applicable training requirements of this part.

(b) *SSOA requirement.* Each SSOA shall retain a record of the technical training completed by its designated personnel in accordance with the technical training requirements of Appendix A to this part. Such records shall be retained by the SSOA for at least

five (5) years from the date the record is created.

§ 672.23 Availability of records.

(a) Except as required by law, or expressly authorized or required by this part, a recipient may not release information pertaining to designated personnel that is required by this part without the written consent of the designated personnel.

(b) Designated personnel are entitled, upon written request to the recipient, to obtain copies of any records pertaining to his or her training required by this part. The recipient shall promptly provide the records requested by designated personnel and access shall not be contingent upon the recipient's receipt of payment for the production of such records.

(c) A recipient shall permit access to all facilities utilized and records compiled in accordance with the requirements of this part to the Secretary of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, or any State agency with jurisdiction over public transportation safety oversight of the recipient.

(d) When requested by the National Transportation Safety Board as part of an accident investigation, a recipient shall disclose information related to the training of designated personnel.

Subpart D—Compliance and Certification Requirements

§ 672.31 Requirement to certify compliance.

(a) A recipient of FTA financial assistance described in § 672.3(b) shall annually certify compliance with this part in accordance with FTA's procedures for annual grant certification and assurances.

(b) A certification must be authorized by the recipient's governing board or other authorizing official, and must be signed by a party specifically authorized to do so.

APPENDIX A TO PART 672—PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SAFETY CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM

A. REQUIRED CURRICULUM OVER A THREE-YEAR PERIOD

(1) *FTA/SSOA personnel and contractor support, and public transportation agency personnel with direct responsibility for safety oversight of rail fixed guideway public transportation systems:*

(a) One (1) hour course on SMS Awareness—e-learning delivery (all required participants)

(b) Two (2) hour courses on Safety Assurance—e-learning delivery (all required participants)

(c) Twenty (20) hours on SMS Principles for Transit (all required participants)

(d) Sixteen (16) hours on SMS Principles for SSO Programs (FTA/SSOA/contractor support personnel only)

(e) TSSP curriculum (minus Transit System Security (TSS) course) (all required participants—credit will be provided if participant has a Course Completion Certificate of previously taken TSSP courses)

(i) Rail System Safety (36 hours)

(ii) Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies (32 hours)

(iii) Rail Incident Investigation (36 hours)

(2) *FTA/SSOA/contractor support personnel (technical training component):*

(a) Each SSOA shall develop a technical training plan for designated personnel and contractor support personnel who perform safety audits and examinations. The SSOA will submit its proposed technical training plan to FTA for review and evaluation as part of the SSOA certification program in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 5329(e)(7). This review and approval process will support the consultation required between FTA and SSOAs regarding the staffing and qualification of the SSOAs' employees and other designated personnel in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 5329(e)(3)(D).

(b) Recognizing that each rail fixed guideway public transportation system has unique characteristics, each SSOA will identify the tasks related to inspections, examinations, and audits, and all activities requiring sign-off, which must be performed by the SSOA to carry out its safety oversight requirements, and identify the skills and knowledge necessary to perform each task at that system. At a minimum, the technical training plan will describe the process for receiving technical training in the following competency areas appropriate to the specific rail fixed guideway public transportation system(s) for which safety audits and examinations are conducted:

(i) Agency organizational structure

(ii) System Safety Program Plan and Security Program Plan

(iii) Knowledge of agency:

- (I) Territory and revenue service schedules
- (II) Current bulletins, general orders, and other associated directives that ensure safe operations
- (III) Operations and maintenance rule books
- (IV) Safety rules
- (V) Standard Operating Procedures
- (VI) Roadway Worker Protection
- (VII) Employee Hours of Service and Fatigue Management program
- (VIII) Employee Observation and Testing Program (Efficiency Testing)
- (IX) Employee training and certification requirements
- (X) Vehicle inspection and maintenance programs, schedules and records
- (XI) Track inspection and maintenance programs, schedules and records
- (XII) Tunnels, bridges, and other structures inspection and maintenance programs, schedules and records
- (XIII) Traction power (substation, overhead catenary system, and third rail), load dispatching, inspection and maintenance programs, schedules and records
- (XIV) Signal and train control inspection and maintenance programs, schedules and records

(c) The SSOA will determine the length of time for the technical training based on the skill level of the designated personnel relative to the applicable rail transit agency(s). FTA will provide a template as requested to assist the SSOA with preparing and monitoring its technical training plan and will provide technical assistance as requested. Each SSOA technical training plan that is submitted to FTA for review will:

- (i) Require designated personnel to successfully:
 - (I) Complete training that covers the skills and knowledge needed to effectively perform the tasks.
 - (II) Pass a written and/or oral examination covering the skills and knowledge required for the designated personnel to effectively perform his or her tasks.
 - (III) Demonstrate hands-on capability to perform his or her tasks to the satisfaction of the appropriate SSOA supervisor or designated instructor.
 - (ii) Establish equivalencies or written and oral examinations to allow designated personnel to demonstrate that they possess the skill and qualification required to perform their tasks.
 - (iii) Require biennial refresher training to maintain technical skills and abilities which includes classroom and hands-on training, as well as testing. Observation and evaluation of actual performance of duties may be used to meet the hands-on portion of this requirement, provided that such testing is documented.

- (iv) Require that training records be maintained to demonstrate the current qualification status of designated personnel assigned to carry out the oversight program. Records may be maintained either electronically or in writing and must be provided to FTA upon request.
- (v) Records must include the following information concerning each designated personnel:
 - (I) Name;
 - (II) The title and date each training course was completed and the proficiency test score(s) where applicable;
 - (III) The content of each training course successfully completed;
 - (IV) A description of the designated personnel's hands-on performance applying the skills and knowledge required to perform the tasks that the employee will be responsible for performing and the factual basis supporting the determination;
 - (V) The tasks the designated personnel are deemed qualified to perform; and
 - (VI) Provide the date that the designated personnel's status as qualified to perform the tasks expires, and the date in which biennial refresher training is due.
- (vi) Ensure the qualification of contractors performing oversight activities. SSOAs may use demonstrations, previous training and education, and written and oral examinations to determine if contractors possess the skill and qualification required to perform their tasks.
- (vii) Periodically assess the effectiveness of the technical training. One method of validation and assessment could be through the use of efficiency tests or periodic review of employee performance.

B. VOLUNTARY CURRICULUM

Bus transit system personnel with direct safety oversight responsibility and State DOTs overseeing safety programs for subrecipients:

- (a) SMS Awareness—e-learning delivery
- (b) Safety Assurance—e-learning delivery
- (c) SMS Principles for Transit
- (d) Courses offered through the TSSP Certificate (Bus)
 - i. Effectively Managing Transit Emergencies
 - ii. Transit Bus System Safety
 - iii. Fundamentals of Bus Collision Investigation

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 89 FR 66007, Aug. 14, 2024, part 672 was revised, effective Nov. 1, 2024. For the convenience of the user, the revised text is set forth as follows:

Subpart A—General Provisions

- Sec.
- 672.1 Purpose.
 - 672.3 Scope and applicability.
 - 672.5 Definitions.

Subpart B—Training Requirements

- 672.11 State Safety Oversight Agency employees and contractors who conduct safety reviews, inspections, examinations, and other safety oversight activities of rail fixed guideway public transportation systems.
- 672.13 Rail transit agency employees and contractors who are directly responsible for the safety oversight of a rail fixed guideway public transportation system.
- 672.15 Evaluation of prior certification and training.
- 672.17 Voluntary participants.

Subpart C—Administrative Requirements

- 672.21 Records.
- 672.23 Availability of records.

Subpart D—Compliance and Certification Requirements

- 672.31 Requirement to certify compliance.

AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 5329, 5334; 49 CFR 1.91.

Subpart A—General Provisions**§ 672.1 Purpose.**

(a) This part implements a uniform safety certification training curriculum and requirements to enhance the technical proficiency of individuals who conduct safety reviews, inspections, examinations, and other safety oversight activities of public transportation systems operated by public transportation agencies and those who are directly responsible for safety oversight of public transportation agencies.

(b) This part does not preempt any safety certification training requirements required by a State for public transportation agencies within its jurisdiction.

§ 672.3 Scope and applicability.

(a) In general, this part applies to all recipients of Federal financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. chapter 53.

(b) The requirements of this part apply only to:

(1) State Safety Oversight Agencies (SSOAs) and their employees and contractors that conduct safety reviews, inspections, examinations, and other safety oversight activities of rail fixed guideway public transportation systems, and

(2) Rail transit agencies and their employees and contractors who are directly responsible for the safety oversight of a recipient's rail fixed guideway public transportation systems.

(c) Voluntary participants may complete the Public Transportation Safety Certifi-

cation Training Program curriculum in accordance with this part.

§ 672.5 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Administrator means the Federal Transit Administrator or the Administrator's designee.

Contractor means an entity that performs tasks on behalf of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), a State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA), or public transportation agency through contract or other agreement.

Designated personnel means:

(1) Employees and contractors identified by a recipient whose job function is directly responsible for safety oversight of the public transportation system of the public transportation agency; or

(2) Employees and contractors of a State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) whose job function requires them to conduct reviews, inspections, examinations, and other safety oversight activities of the rail fixed guideway public transportation systems subject to the jurisdiction of the agency.

Directly responsible for safety oversight means public transportation agency personnel whose primary job function includes the development, implementation, and review of the agency's safety plan and/or the State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) requirements for the rail fixed guideway public transportation system pursuant to 49 CFR part 674.

Examination means a process for gathering or analyzing facts or information related to the safety of a public transportation system.

FTA means the Federal Transit Administration, an operating administration within the United States Department of Transportation.

Initial training means the group of specific courses an individual must complete within three (3) years of enrollment in the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program to receive their first program certificate.

Public transportation agency means an entity that provides public transportation service as defined in 49 U.S.C. 5302 and that has one or more modes of service not subject to the safety oversight requirements of another Federal agency.

Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program curriculum means the initial training designated personnel or voluntary participants must complete to receive the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program certificate of completion.

Rail fixed guideway public transportation system means any fixed guideway system, or any such system in engineering or construction, that uses rail, is operated for public transportation, is within the jurisdiction of

a State, and is not subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Railroad Administration. These systems include but are not limited to rapid rail, heavy rail, light rail, monorail, trolley, inclined plane, funicular, and automated guideway.

Rail transit agency means any entity that provides services on a rail fixed guideway public transportation system.

Recertification means the process of renewing an individual's Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program certification for two years.

Recertification training means the training courses or activities designated personnel must complete within two (2) years of completing the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program curriculum to maintain certification and every two (2) years thereafter.

Recipient means a State or local governmental authority or any other operator of a public transportation system receiving financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. chapter 53.

Safety review means a review or analysis of safety records and related materials.

State means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands.

State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) means an agency established by a State that meets the requirements and performs the functions specified by 49 U.S.C. 5329(e) and (k) and the regulations set forth in 49 CFR part 674.

Voluntary participant means an individual participating in the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program that is not subject to the requirements of this part, including:

- (1) Employees and contractors of an applicable recipient that have not been designated under §672.11(a) or §672.13(a), and
- (2) Individuals who are not employees or contractors of an applicable recipient.

Subpart B—Training Requirements

§672.11 State Safety Oversight Agency employees and contractors who conduct safety reviews, inspections, examinations, and other safety oversight activities of rail fixed guideway public transportation systems.

(a) Each SSOA shall designate its employees and contractors that must comply with the applicable training requirements of this part and the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (PTSCTP) curriculum. Each SSOA must designate employees and contractors who conduct reviews, inspections, examinations, and other safety oversight activities of public transportation systems, including appropriate managers and supervisors of such personnel.

(b) Each SSOA shall ensure that each designated individual is enrolled in the PTSCTP

within 30 days of the individual's designation. Each SSOA shall ensure the compliance of designated participants with the applicable training requirements of this part and the PTSCTP curriculum.

(c) Employees and contractors designated under paragraph (a) of this section shall complete applicable training requirements of this part and the PTSCTP curriculum within three (3) years of their initial PTSCTP enrollment.

(d) Thereafter, upon completion of the PTSCTP curriculum, designated personnel shall complete recertification every two (2) years. Required recertification training shall consist of two elements:

- (1) Element 1: Recertification training defined by FTA, and
- (2) Element 2: Recertification training defined by the SSOA, which must include, at a minimum, one (1) hour of safety oversight training.

§672.13 Rail transit agency employees and contractors who are directly responsible for the safety oversight of a rail fixed guideway public transportation system.

(a) Each rail transit agency shall designate its employees and contractors who must comply with the applicable training requirements of this part and the PTSCTP curriculum. Each rail transit agency must designate employees and contractors who are directly responsible for safety oversight of rail modes.

(b) Each rail transit agency shall ensure that each designated individual is enrolled in the PTSCTP within 30 days of the individual's designation. Each rail transit agency shall ensure the compliance of designated participants with the applicable training requirements of this part and the PTSCTP curriculum.

(c) Employees and contractors designated under paragraph (a) of this section shall complete applicable training requirements of this part and the PTSCTP curriculum within three (3) years of their initial PTSCTP enrollment.

(d) Thereafter, upon completion of the PTSCTP curriculum, designated personnel must complete recertification every two (2) years. Required recertification training shall consist of two elements:

- (1) Element 1: Specific recertification training defined by FTA, and
- (2) Element 2: Recertification training defined by the rail transit agency, which must include, at a minimum, one (1) hour of safety oversight training.

§672.15 Evaluation of prior certification and training.

(a) PTSCTP participants or an identified point of contact described in §672.21(b) may request that FTA evaluate safety training or

certification previously obtained from another entity to determine if the training satisfies an applicable training requirement of this part.

(b) Individuals requesting FTA evaluation of previously obtained training or certification must provide FTA with an official transcript or certificate of the training, a description of the curriculum and competencies obtained, and a brief statement detailing how the training or certification satisfies the applicable requirements of this part. The required information must be submitted using an equivalency credit request via electronic means defined by FTA.

(c) FTA will evaluate the submission and determine if a training requirement of this part may be waived. If a waiver is granted, designated personnel are responsible for completing all other applicable requirements of this part.

§ 672.17 Voluntary participants.

(a) Individuals not subject to the requirements of this part may participate voluntarily. To receive a certificate of completion as a voluntary participant, individuals must complete the PTSCTP curriculum within three (3) years of their enrollment. Voluntary participants are not required to complete recertification. FTA will not recertify voluntary participants.

(b) If a voluntary participant has received a PTSCTP certificate of completion and is subsequently designated by an SSOA or rail transit agency as a PTSCTP participant, the individual will need to complete required recertification training within two (2) years of designation.

Subpart C—Administrative Requirements

§ 672.21 Records.

(a) *General requirement.* Each recipient subject to the requirements of this part shall ensure that its designated personnel:

- (1) Are enrolled in the PTSCTP;
- (2) Complete the initial training specified in the PTSCTP curriculum within three (3) years of their enrollment as a designated participant; and
- (3) Complete required recertification every two (2) years upon completion of the PTSCTP curriculum.

(b) *Point of contact identification.* Each recipient, subject to the requirements of this part, shall identify a single point of contact (POC) for communication with FTA regarding PTSCTP information. The recipient shall provide FTA, via electronic method defined by FTA, at a minimum, the POC's name, title, phone number, and email address.

(c) *Point of contact responsibilities.* Each POC will serve as a liaison between the recipient and FTA to inform FTA of changes in designated personnel participating in the

PTSCTP, enroll new participants, submit proof of recertification for the recipient's designated personnel, and address any other program documentation or communications needs.

(d) *Semiannual reporting.* Semiannually, between January 1st and January 31st and between July 1st and July 31st of each calendar year, the identified POC must submit documentation to FTA, via electronic method defined by FTA, that identifies:

(1) All employees and contractors of the recipient who are designated as PTSCTP participants; and

(2) The course or courses the recipient has identified as required recertification training for their designated personnel. The agency identified recertification training must include, at a minimum, one (1) hour of safety oversight training. The documentation must include the complete name and length of each course, as well as the name of the course training provider.

(e) *SSOA requirement.* (1) Each SSOA shall retain a record of the technical training completed by its designated personnel in accordance with the technical training requirements of this part. SSOAs shall retain training records for at least five (5) years from the date the record is created.

(2) Each SSOA shall develop and maintain a technical training plan for designated personnel who perform reviews, inspections, examinations, and other safety oversight activities. The SSOA will submit its technical training plan to FTA for review and evaluation as part of its annual reporting to FTA as required under § 674.39 of this chapter. This review process will support the consultation required between FTA and SSOAs regarding the staffing and qualification of the designated personnel in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 5329(e)(3)(D).

(3) Each SSOA shall identify the tasks related to reviews, inspections, examinations, and other safety oversight activities requiring SSOA approval, which must be performed by the SSOA to carry out its safety oversight requirements, and identify the skills and knowledge necessary to perform each oversight task at that system. At a minimum, the technical training plan will describe the process for receiving technical training in the following competency areas appropriate to the specific rail fixed guideway public transportation system(s) for which reviews and inspections conducted:

- (i) Agency organizational structure.
- (ii) Agency Safety Plan.
- (iii) Knowledge of agency:
 - (A) Territory and revenue service schedules.
 - (B) Current bulletins, general orders, and other associated directives that ensure safe operations.
 - (C) Operations and maintenance rule books.

- (D) Safety rules.
 - (E) Standard Operating Procedures.
 - (F) Roadway Worker Protection.
 - (G) Employee Hours of Service and Fatigue Management program.
 - (H) Employee Observation and Testing Program (Efficiency Testing).
 - (I) Employee training and certification requirements.
 - (J) Vehicle inspection and maintenance programs, schedules, and records.
 - (K) Track inspection and maintenance programs, schedules and records.
 - (L) Tunnels, bridges, and other structures inspection and maintenance programs, schedules, and records.
 - (M) Traction power (substation, overhead catenary system, and third rail), load dispatching, inspection and maintenance programs, schedules, and records.
 - (N) Signal and train control inspection and maintenance programs, schedules, and records.
- (4) The SSOA will determine the length of time for the technical training based on the skill level of the designated personnel relative to the applicable rail transit agency(s). FTA will provide a template as requested to assist the SSOA with preparing and monitoring its technical training plan and will provide technical assistance as requested. Each SSOA technical training plan that is submitted to FTA for review will:
- (i) Require designated personnel to successfully:
 - (A) Complete training that covers the skills and knowledge needed to effectively perform the tasks.
 - (B) Pass a written and/or oral examination covering the skills and knowledge required for the designated personnel to effectively perform their tasks.
 - (C) Demonstrate hands-on capability to perform their tasks to the satisfaction of the appropriate SSOA supervisor or designated instructor.
 - (ii) Establish equivalencies or written and oral examinations to allow designated personnel to demonstrate that they possess the skill and qualification required to perform their tasks.
 - (iii) Require biennial recertification training to maintain technical skills and abilities, which includes classroom and hands-on training, as well as testing. Observation and evaluation of actual performance of duties may be used to meet the hands-on portion of this requirement, provided that such testing is documented.
 - (iv) Require that training records be maintained to demonstrate the current qualification status of designated personnel assigned to carry out the oversight program. Records may be maintained either electronically or in writing and must be provided to FTA upon request. Records must include the following

information concerning each designated personnel:

- (A) Name;
 - (B) The title and date each training course was completed, the proficiency test score(s), and the minimum passing score of the test, where applicable;
 - (C) The content of each training course successfully completed;
 - (D) A description of the designated personnel's hands-on performance applying the skills and knowledge required to perform the tasks that the employee will be responsible for performing and the factual basis supporting the determination;
 - (E) The tasks the designated personnel are deemed qualified to perform; and
 - (F) Provide the date that the designated personnel's status as qualified to perform the tasks expires, and the date in which biennial recertification training is due.
- (v) Ensure the qualification of contractors performing oversight activities. SSOAs may use demonstrations, previous training and education, and written and oral examinations to determine if contractors possess the skill and qualification required to perform their tasks.
- (vi) Periodically assess the effectiveness of the technical training. One method of validation and assessment could be efficiency tests or periodic review of employee performance.

§ 672.23 Availability of records.

- (a) Except as required by law, or expressly authorized or required by this part, a recipient may not release information pertaining to employees and contractors that is required by this part without the written consent of the individual.
- (b) Individuals are entitled, upon written request to the recipient, to obtain copies of any records pertaining to their training required by this part. The recipient shall promptly provide the records requested by personnel and access shall not be contingent upon the recipient's receipt of payment for the production of such records.
- (c) A recipient shall permit access to all facilities utilized and records compiled in accordance with the requirements of this part to the Secretary of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, or any State agency with jurisdiction over public transportation safety oversight of the recipient.
- (d) When requested by the National Transportation Safety Board as part of an accident investigation, a recipient shall disclose information related to the training of employees and contractors.

Subpart D—Compliance and Certification Requirements

§ 672.31 Requirement to certify compliance.

- (a) A recipient of FTA financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. chapter 53 that is subject to

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the requirements of this part as specified in § 672.3(b) shall annually certify compliance with this part in accordance with FTA's procedures for annual grant certification and assurances.

(b) A certification must be authorized by the recipient's governing board or other authorizing official and must be signed by a party specifically authorized to do so.

PART 673—PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AGENCY SAFETY PLANS

Subpart A—General

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AUTHORITY: 49 U.S.C. 5329, 5334; 49 CFR 1.91.

SOURCE: 89 FR 25738, Apr. 11, 2024, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 673.1 Applicability.

(a) This part applies to any State, local governmental authority, and any other operator of a public transportation system that receives Federal financial assistance under 49 U.S.C. chapter 53.

(b) This part does not apply to an operator of a public transportation system that only receives Federal finan-

cial assistance under 49 U.S.C. 5310, 49 U.S.C. 5311, or both 49 U.S.C. 5310 and 49 U.S.C. 5311 unless it operates a rail fixed guideway public transportation system.

§ 673.3 Policy.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has adopted the principles and methods of Safety Management Systems (SMS) as the basis for enhancing the safety of public transportation in the United States. FTA will follow the principles and methods of SMS in its development of rules, regulations, policies, guidance, best practices, and technical assistance administered under the authority of 49 U.S.C. 5329. This part sets standards for the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan, which will be responsive to FTA's Public Transportation Safety Program, and reflect the specific safety objectives, standards, and priorities of each transit agency. Each Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan will incorporate SMS principles and methods tailored to the size, complexity, and scope of the public transportation system and the environment in which it operates.

§ 673.5 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Accountable Executive means a single, identifiable person who has ultimate responsibility for carrying out the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan of a transit agency; responsibility for carrying out the transit agency's Transit Asset Management Plan; and control or direction over the human and capital resources needed to develop and maintain both the transit agency's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan, in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 5329(d), and the transit agency's Transit Asset Management Plan in accordance with 49 U.S.C. 5326.

Assault on a transit worker means, as defined under 49 U.S.C. 5302, a circumstance in which an individual knowingly, without lawful authority or permission, and with intent to endanger the safety of any individual, or with a reckless disregard for the safety of human life, interferes with, disables, or incapacitates a transit worker while