

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-2025-0059]

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 the Association of American Railroads (AAR) petitioned FRA for relief from certain regulations concerning track inspections.

DATES: FRA must receive comments on the petition by June 9, 2025. 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:

Yujang Zhang, Staff Director, FRA Track & Structures Division, telephone: 202-493-6460, email: yujang.zhang@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 April 24, 2025, AAR, on behalf of its members, petitioned FRA for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 213 (Track Safety Standards). FRA

assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2025-0059.

AAR seeks relief from § 213.233(b) and (c), Visual track inspections, which specifies the method and frequency in which railroads must conduct visual track inspections. AAR requests that its members instead be permitted to use a combination of track geometry measurement system (TGMS) and visual track inspection methods, which AAR states “will result in earlier detection and remediation of track defects, reduce visual inspections that are a potential source of injury, and improve operational efficiency.” Further, AAR believes that the relief would allow railroads to build on their existing successful TGMS programs and provide FRA additional data for use in possible future regulations. In support of its request, AAR also cites that automated track inspection technologies enable earlier detection of track defects and preventative maintenance practices, rather than reactive operations.

FRA notes that other non-AAR member railroads, including New Jersey Transit (NJT) (Docket Number FRA-2003-15196), the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) (Docket Number FRA-1999-5102), and the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) (Docket Number RST-74-1),¹ have previously received conditional waivers from certain visual track inspection requirements through use of TGMS.² FRA is providing notice that concurrently with consideration of AAR’s request, FRA may consider the utility of aligning these previous grants of relief with any grant of relief that may result in this docket.

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 June 9, 2025 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

¹ 41 FR 15360 (Apr. 12, 1976).

² The relief issued to both NJT and SEPTA has expired and LIRR’s relief remains in effect.

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](https://www.regulations.gov).

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2025-0034]

Notice of Application for Approval of Discontinuance or Modification of a Railroad Signal System

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

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public notice that Florida Gulf & Atlantic Railroad (FGA) petitioned FRA seeking approval to discontinue or modify a signal system. FRA is reissuing this notice because of an incorrect docket number given in the previous notice.

DATES: FRA must receive comments on the petition by June 9, 2025. 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: 406-210-3608, email: scott.j.johnson@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under part 235 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and 49 U.S.C. 20502(a), this document provides the public notice that by letter dated February 26, 2025, FGA petitioned FRA seeking approval to discontinue or modify a signal system. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2025-0034.¹

Specifically, FGA requests to discontinue the centralized traffic control (CTC) system on the Tallahassee Subdivision, from milepost (MP) 693.3 to MP 802.0. FGA intends to remove the “outdated” CTC system and install “switch point approach signal indicators, DTMF Systems, and self-restoring switches at five siding locations between Baldwin and Tallahassee, as well as the switch accessing the Bainbridge Line at Tallahassee.” Train operation would then use track warrant control, which is used on FGA’s other two subdivisions.

In support of the request, FGA states that it is difficult to find parts for the current CTC system, as the relays required are no longer produced, and the system frequently fails. Further, the CTC system sometimes “hinders operations by slowing down the switching operations when blocking or organizing interchange traffic.” FGA adds that the new DTMF system will provide broken rail protection and there is no potential for head-on or rear-end collisions at either interlocking in the subject area.

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 June 9, 2025 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 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 <https://www.transportation.gov/privacy>. See also <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2025-0063]

Request Notice: Use of Foreign-Built Small Passenger Vessel in United States Coastwise Trade, M/V My Three Girls

AGENCY: Maritime Administration, DOT.
ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), is authorized to make determinations regarding the coastwise use of foreign built; certain U.S. built; and U.S. and foreign rebuilt vessels that solely carry no more than twelve passengers for hire. MARAD has received such a

determination request and is publishing this notice to solicit comments to assist with determining whether the proposed use of the vessel set forth in the request would have an adverse effect on U.S. vessel builders or U.S. coastwise trade businesses that use U.S.-built vessels in those businesses. Information about the requestor’s vessel, including a description of the proposed service, is in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section below.

DATES: Submit comments on or before June 9, 2025.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD-2025-0063 by any one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search MARAD-2025-0063 and follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- **Mail or Hand Delivery:** Docket Management Facility is in the West Building, Ground Floor of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Docket Management Facility location address is U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD-2025-0063, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, West Building, Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

Note: If you mail or hand-deliver your comments, we recommend that you include your name and a mailing address, an email address, or a telephone number in the body of your document so that we can contact you if we have questions regarding your submission.

Instructions: All submissions received must include the agency name and specific docket number. All comments received will be posted without change to the docket at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on submitting comments, or to submit comments that are confidential in nature, see the section entitled Public Participation.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Hagerty, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Mail Stop 2, MAR-620, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone: (202) 366-5400. Email: smallvessels@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 12121(b), the U.S. Coast Guard may issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise trade endorsement for eligible, small passenger vessels authorized to carry no more than 12 passengers for hire if the

¹ FRA erroneously cited Docket Number FRA-2025-0024 in a previous public notice announcing FGA’s request. See 90 FR 19244 (May 6, 2025), available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/05/06/2025-07829/notice-of-application-for-approval-of-discontinuance-or-modification-of-a-railroad-signal-system>. The correct Docket Number is FRA-2025-0034.