The mission of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is to enable the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods for a strong America, now and in the future.

- Safety is our number one priority
- We are laying a foundation for higher performing rail
- Promulgating and enforcing rail safety regulations
- Investing in America’s rail corridors
- Facilitating and conducting research and technology development

Vision: RAIL—Moving America Forward
Moving America Forward

Safety is our number one priority

Rail Has Never Been Safer

Every regulation and enforcement action we issue is based on facts and sound research. New records in safety have been achieved four of the past five years.

- Over the past decade, train accidents have declined 47 percent
- Highway-rail grade crossing accidents are down 35 percent

And employee fatalities have been reduced by 59 percent
Since 2006, we have steadily invested nearly $35 million in research and development annually.
### 2013 Signal & Train Control Inspection Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Inspection Reports</th>
<th>Inspection Days</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Sub Units</th>
<th>Defects Taken</th>
<th>Defect Ratio</th>
<th>Recom. Violation</th>
<th>Violation Ratio</th>
<th>Railroads Inspected</th>
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</table>

- 7, 913 Signal & Train Control Inspection Reports
- 61, 457 Signal Units Inspected
- 20, 396 Defects Taken – 33% Defect Ratio
- 460 Violations Recommended - .75% Violation Ratio
Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 234:

- Grade Crossing Signal Systems Safety.  
  (59 FR 50086, September 30, 1994) Final Rule; Effective 1/1/1995

- Grade Crossing Signal Systems Safety.  
  (61 FR 31802, June 20, 1996) Interim Final Rule

- State Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Action Plans.  
  (75 FR 36551, June 28, 2010) Final Rule  
  - Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008; Section 202

- Systems for Telephonic Notification of Unsafe Conditions at Highway-Rail and Pathway Grade Crossings.  
  (77 FR 35164, June 12, 2012) Final Rule  
  - Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008; Section 205

§234.5 Definitions:

- **Activation Failure**—Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Warning System Provides Less Than 20 Seconds Of Warning Time
  
  - This failure indicates to the motorist that it is safe to proceed across the railroad tracks when, in fact, it is not safe to do so
  
  - §234.9 Each railroad shall report to the FRA within 15 days each AF occurrence on FRA Form No. 6180-83
§234.9 Grade crossing signal system failure reports.

Each railroad shall report to FRA within 15 days each activation failure
Calendar Year 2013:

- Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Collisions: 2,089
- Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Fatalities: 249
- Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Injuries: 952
- Trespasser Fatalities: 462
- Trespasser Injuries: 432
- Activation Failures: 364
§234.309 Emergency Notification System
§234.317 Compliance Dates
§234.261 Highway Traffic Signal Pre-emption

- Approaching Train
- Advance Preemption Active
- Crossing Warning System Not Active
- Traffic Signal - Track Clearance Green
§234.261 Highway Traffic Signal Pre-emption
Safety Advisories

• Safety Advisory 2013–04
  o Importance of Procedures for Temporary Removal From Service of Grade Crossing and Wayside Signal Systems

• Safety Advisory 2010–03
  o Sounding Locomotive Horn, Especially at/or Near Grade Crossings, Regardless of Whether Located in Quiet Zones

• Safety Advisory 2010–02

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Technical Bulletins

- **S-13-01**: Duration of Wayside Horn Sounding at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

- **S-12-01**: Appropriate Process for the Inspection of Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Warning System Pre-emption Interconnections with Highway Traffic Signals

- **S-09-02**: Necessary Approval for Signal-Related Results of Inspections and Tests; Electronic Recordkeeping

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