DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with part 211 of Title 49 of Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated September 29, 2015, the Graham-White Company (Graham-White) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR 231.27. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2015–0114.

Graham-White manufactures electric locomotive parking brakes. The Graham White design provides transmission of torque from the hand wheel into the input shaft of the brake through a key that engages the hand wheel hub and the input shaft. Title 49 CFR 231.27(a)(2) requires the hand brake wheel be affixed to the input shaft using a square taper fit not less than seven-eighths of an inch square. A Graham-White technical analysis report stipulated in 49 CFR 231.27(a)(2) requires the hand brake wheel be affixed to the input shaft using a square taper fit not less than seven-eighths of an inch square. A Graham-White technical analysis report demonstrates that the company’s design provides the same degree of safety or a greater degree of safety than that specified in 49 CFR 231.27. Graham-White is requesting relief from the hand brake shaft square taper fit regulation, as stipulated in 49 CFR 231 Plate A, to allow the key and shaft design currently in service on Graham-White electric parking hand brakes.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12–140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.
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, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- **Web site:** http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- **Fax:** 202–493–2251.
- **Mail:** Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12–140, Washington, DC 20590.
- **Hand Delivery:** 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by December 24, 2015 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered as far as practicable.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our 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.). In accordance with 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 www.dot.gov/privacy. See also http://www.regulations.gov/#/privacyNotice for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 3, 2015.

**Ron Hynes,**
Director, Office of Technical Oversight.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Railroad Administration

**Petition for Modification of Special Approval for Designation of Repair Locations**

In accordance with part 232 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated June 3, 2015, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a modification to its plan designating locations where brake system repairs will be performed, as prescribed in 49 CFR 232.17(b). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA–2015–0116.

BNSF stated that to appropriately handle freight cars with air brake systems or components that became defective en route, BNSF created and currently maintains a list of specific locations across its system that are defined as the “nearest location where the needed repairs can be effectuated” per 49 CFR 232.15(f). The list was last updated several years ago, and, due to changes in accessibility, infrastructure, staffing, and safety, BNSF has proposed modest changes to the current list of locations.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12–140, Washington, DC 20590. The Docket Operations Facility is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Interested parties are invited to participate in these proceedings by submitting written views, data, or comments. If any interested party desires an opportunity for oral comment, they should notify FRA, in writing, before the end of the comment period and specify the basis for their request.

While 49 CFR 232.17(f) specifies that comments should be submitted to FRA’s Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety and Chief Safety Officer, and that a copy of the comment be served on each petitioner, this regulation predates the establishment of the Federal government’s public regulatory Web site and the existing electronic petition and comment submittal options. All communications concerning these proceedings should identify the appropriate docket number and may be submitted by any of the following methods:

- **Web site:** http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- **Fax:** 202–493–2251.
- **Mail:** Docket Operations Facility, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12–140, Washington, DC 20590.
- **Hand Delivery:** 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays.

Communications received by December 9, 2015 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Pursuant to 49 CFR 232.17(g), if no comment objecting to the requested modification is received during the 30-day comment period, and if FRA finds that the petition complies with the requirements of 49 CFR 232.17 and that the proposed plan under 49 CFR 232.15(g) is acceptable and justified, the petition will be granted. If granted, the petition will become effective by February 8, 2016.

Anyone is able to search the electronic form of any written communications and comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). In accordance with 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 www.dot.gov/privacy. See also http://www.regulations.gov/#/privacyNotice for the privacy notice of regulations.gov.

Issued in Washington, DC, on Monday, October 26, 2015.

**Ron Hynes,**
Director, Office of Technical Oversight.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Railroad Administration

[Safety Advisory No. 2015–05]

**Addressing Rail Head Surface Conditions Identified During the Internal Rail Inspection Process**

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