

the claim despite the missing information, the State must issue a substantive decision on the merits (*e.g.*, “Closed—No Data Correction Made”).

- If an RDR is closed due to a lack of response, even if the State issued a substantive decision on the merits based on the existing record, the request will be reopened if the requestor subsequently provides the information that was previously requested.

- The reopened request will not be escalated to the next stage of appeal.

- It will be reviewed again at the level it was closed, and the State will be granted the full time allotted for that specific stage (21 days for Initial or Reconsideration Reviews, and 45 days for Final Reviews) to complete this renewed review.

- The appellate stages (Reconsideration and Final Review) are meant to review the previous decision based on the existing record. If a requestor introduces entirely new, unrequested, and relevant information or evidence at any point (whether trying to reopen a closed case or during an appeal) that was not evaluated during the prior stage, the RDR will be routed back to the Initial Review process to ensure a complete evaluation of the record.

- The appellate stages (Reconsideration and Final Review) are primarily meant to review the previous decision based on the existing record. However, appellate State reviewers retain the authority to request additional information from the requestor, provided it is relevant and material to the disposition of the review. If the requestor provides the specifically requested information, the review remains at the current appellate level. Conversely, if a requestor introduces entirely new, unrequested and relevant information or evidence during an appeal that was not requested by the reviewer and was not evaluated during the prior stage, the RDR will be routed back to the Initial Review process.

- For RDR Reconsideration Requests and Final Review Requests, requestors must specifically address the State’s previous factual or legal basis for the decision and explain why they believe that decision was incorrect. If an appeal is submitted that fails to provide this substantive justification (*e.g.*, merely stating disagreement without addressing the prior analysis), the State has the authority to summarily reject the request without further review.

IV. Next Steps

FMCSA thanks industry, State Partners, and the public for providing feedback to continually improve the

DataQs program. This input is essential to FMCSA’s efforts to elevate data quality standards, which strive to improve roadway safety and instill greater confidence in fair and understandable processes. FMCSA is dedicated to ensuring States have support and collaboration in developing their DataQs implementation plans. FMCSA will communicate with States on what is expected to meet the revised requirements via correspondence to MCSAP agencies and will conduct training and outreach in advance of implementation. FMCSA proposes the following implementation schedule.

- *April–May 2026:* FMCSA begins training and outreach on the new requirements for DataQs. Training will include templates and guidance for creating and submitting DataQs Implementation Plans, webinars, and office hours.

- *60 days after FRN publication:* States submit draft DataQs Implementation Plans to FMCSA for review and approval.

- *120 days after FRN publication:* States finalize their DataQs Implementation Plans, based on feedback from FMCSA. FMCSA completes the implementation plan for relevant RDRs.

- *150 days after FRN publication:* DataQs system release to support the revised requirements. State implementation plans and new DataQs MCSAP requirements go into effect.

Implementing these revised requirements is a joint effort between FMCSA, State Partners, and industry to enhance data quality and support better safety outcomes. By working together, we can improve the effectiveness of the DataQs process and contribute to a safer transportation system.

Derek Barrs,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA–2010–0034]

Port Authority Trans-Hudson’s Request To Amend Its Positive Train Control Safety Plan and Positive Train Control System

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

ACTION: Notice of availability and request for comments.

SUMMARY: This document provides the public with notice that, on March 31, 2026, Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH) submitted a request for amendment (RFA) to its FRA-approved Positive Train Control Safety Plan (PTCSP). As this RFA may involve a request for FRA’s approval of proposed material modifications to an FRA-certified positive train control (PTC) system, FRA is publishing this notice and inviting public comment on the railroad’s RFA to its PTCSP.

DATES: FRA will consider comments received by May 6, 2026. FRA may consider comments received after that date to the extent practicable and without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to a PTC system.

ADDRESSES:

Comments: Comments 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 the applicable docket number. The relevant PTC docket number for this host railroad is Docket No. FRA–2010–0034. For convenience, all active PTC dockets are hyperlinked on FRA’s website at <https://railroads.dot.gov/research-development/program-areas/train-control/ptc/railroads-ptc-dockets>. All comments received will be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>; this includes any personal information.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gabe Neal, Staff Director, Signal, Train Control, and Crossings Division, telephone: 816–516–7168, email: Gabe.Neal@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In general, title 49 United States Code (U.S.C.) section 20157(h) requires FRA to certify that a host railroad’s PTC system complies with title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 236, subpart I, before the technology may be operated in revenue service. Before making certain changes to an FRA-certified PTC system or the associated FRA-approved PTCSP, a host railroad must submit, and obtain FRA’s approval of, an RFA to its PTCSP under 49 CFR 236.1021.

Under 49 CFR 236.1021(e), FRA will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** and invite public comment, in accordance with 49 CFR part 211, if an RFA includes a request for approval of a material modification of a signal or train control system. Accordingly, this notice informs the public that, on March 31, 2026, PATH submitted an RFA to its PTCSP for its Communication Based

Train Control PTC system, which seeks FRA's approval for a software update associated with placing a new interlocking into service. That RFA is available in Docket No. FRA-2010-0034.

Interested parties are invited to comment on PATH's RFA to its PTCSP by submitting written comments or data. During FRA's review of this railroad's RFA, FRA will consider any comments or data submitted within the timeline specified in this notice, and to the extent practicable, without delaying implementation of valuable or necessary modifications to a PTC system. See 49 CFR 236.1021; *see also* 49 CFR 236.1011(e). Under 49 CFR 236.1021, FRA maintains the authority to approve, approve with conditions, or deny a railroad's RFA to its PTCSP at FRA's sole discretion.

Privacy Act Notice

In accordance with 49 CFR 211.3, FRA solicits comments from the public to better inform its decisions. DOT posts these comments, without edit, including any personal information the commenter provides, to <https://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 <https://www.regulations.gov/privacy-notice> for the privacy notice of [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). To facilitate comment tracking, we encourage commenters to provide their name, or the name of their organization; however, submission of names is completely optional. If you wish to provide comments containing proprietary or confidential information, please contact FRA for alternate submission instructions.

Issued in Washington, DC.

Carolyn R. Hayward-Williams,

Director, Office of Railroad Systems and Technology.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-2026-0629]

Request Notice: Use of Foreign-built Small Passenger Vessel in United States Coastwise Trade, M/V ALEGRIA

AGENCY: Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of Transportation, as represented by 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 May 18, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by DOT Docket Number MARAD-2026-0629 by any one of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Search the above DOT Docket Number 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, 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 the DOT Docket Number, 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 DOT 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 MARAD, after notice and an opportunity for public comment, determines the use of the small passenger vessel in the coastwise trade will not adversely affect United States vessel builders or the coastwise trade business of any person that employs vessels built in the United States in that business.¹

MARAD has received an eligibility determination request. Further details about the requester's vessel and its proposed operations may be found in the determination request posted in the DOT Docket Number listed in the **ADDRESSES** section above at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Interested parties may comment on the undue adverse effect this action may have on U.S. vessel builders or coastwise trade businesses in the U.S. that employ U.S.-built vessels in those businesses. Comments should refer to the vessel name, state the commenter's interest in the request, and demonstrate, with supporting documentation, the undue adverse effect on U.S. vessel builders and coastwise trade businesses.

Public Participation

How do I submit comments?

Please submit comments, including the attachments, following the instructions provided under the above heading entitled **ADDRESSES**. It may take a few hours or even days for comments to be reflected on the docket. Comments must be written in English. Provide concise comments and attach additional documents as necessary. There is no limit on the length of the attachments.

Where do I go to read public comments, and find supporting information?

The docket online is located at <https://www.regulations.gov>, keyword search the DOT Docket Number list in the **ADDRESSES** section above or visit the Docket Management Facility (see **ADDRESSES** for hours of operation). Please periodically check the Docket for new submissions and supporting material.

¹ The U.S. Coast Guard and MARAD have authority under 46 U.S.C. 12121(b) through the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, respectively.