

DATES: FRA must receive comments on the petition by November 2, 2026. 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:

Caleb Rogers, Railroad Safety Specialist, FRA Motive Power & Equipment Division, telephone: 202-493-6322, email: caleb.rogers@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under part 211 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by letter dated June 5, 2026, CSXT petitioned FRA for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 229 (Railroad Locomotive Safety Standards). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2026-1684.

Specifically, CSXT seeks relief from the requirements of § 229.23(b)(2), *Periodic inspection: general*, related to locomotives equipped with advanced microprocessor-controlled systems. CSXT seeks to eliminate the requirement for QMIs to perform a daily inspection once every 33 days on a microprocessor-equipped locomotives maintained on extended 184-day periodic inspection cycles.

In support of its request, CSXT states that microprocessor-based systems allow “continuous monitoring of locomotive health and system performance” and “immediate digital reporting [of such performance] to mechanical personnel,” enabling the identification and rectification of issues in real time before they impact the locomotive’s operation. CSXT asserts that its ability to use the data from microprocessor-based systems to identify developing faults and provide

continuous oversight and rapid response “exceeds the value of a periodic 33-day inspection,” which creates “additional line-of-road exposure [and] disruption in train operations” and “diverts skilled mechanical personnel away from shop-based maintenance activity.”

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 November 2, 2026 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 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).

Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,

Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety, Chief Safety Officer.

[FR Doc. 2026-17870 Filed 8-31-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2026-1421]

Petition for Approval of Test Program; Extension of Comment Period

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

ACTION: Notice; Extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: This document extends the period for public comment regarding the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) request for FRA approval of a test program related to a locomotive control system, and the temporary suspension of certain FRA safety regulations in connection with that program.

DATES: FRA must receive comments on the petition by September 30, 2026. 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: Fred Mottley, Systems Engineer, Engineering, Technology, and Automation Division, FRA, telephone: 617-494-3160, email: fred.mottley@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On July 1, 2026, FRA published notice¹ that UP submitted a request for FRA approval of a test program (Program) related to a locomotive control system, and the temporary suspension of certain FRA safety regulations in connection with the Program. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2026-1421.

On August 10, 2026, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

¹ <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2026-1421-0002>.

requested that FRA extend the comment period on this petition.² Through this notice, FRA is extending the comment period for an additional 30 days (until September 30, 2026).

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 relating to the Program and associated regulatory suspension requests. 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 parties desire 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 September 30, 2026 will be considered by FRA before final action is taken. Comments received after that date will be considered if practicable.

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Issued in Washington, DC.

John Karl Alexy,

*Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety,
Chief Safety Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2026-17778 Filed 8-31-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2026-1420]

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 Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) petitioned FRA for relief from certain regulations concerning inspections performed by qualified mechanical inspectors (QMIs). **DATES:** FRA must receive comments on the petition by November 2, 2026. 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.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Caleb Rogers, Railroad Safety Specialist, FRA Motive Power & Equipment Division, telephone: 202-493-6322, email: caleb.rogers@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under part 211 of title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by letter dated June 9, 2026, UPRR petitioned FRA for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety regulations contained at 49 CFR part 229 (Railroad Locomotive Safety Standards). FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2026-1420.

Specifically, UPRR seeks relief from § 229.23(b)(2), *Periodic inspection: general*, related to locomotives equipped with advanced microprocessor-controlled systems.

UPRR requests a waiver from the requirement that the daily inspection conducted once every 33 days on a microprocessor-equipped locomotive be performed by a QMI, which, as defined under § 229.5, *Definitions*, must have a primary responsibility that includes work generally consistent with locomotive troubleshooting, inspection, testing, maintenance, and repair of locomotives. As a result, UPRR proposes to remove the requirement for a QMI to perform the referenced periodic inspection.

In support of its request, UPRR states that it has collected data on daily inspections performed by QMIs and non-QMIs and found "no statistical difference between the quality of daily inspections." UPRR explains that the relief "will improve overall safety by reducing additional walking, getting [on and off] equipment, as well as improving the overall inspection quality by cross[-]training employees in multiple aspects of multiple interconnected mechanical systems."

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.

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² <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FRA-2026-1421-0004>.