



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

October 5, 2020

Ms. Jo Strang  
Senior Vice President  
Safety & Regulatory Policy  
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association  
JStrang@aslrta.org

**Re: Docket Number FRA-2020-0063**

Dear Ms. Strang:

In a letter dated September 18, 2020, in the above-identified Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) docket, FRA extended relief previously granted to the American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association (ASLRRA) in FRA's emergency relief docket (ERD; docket number FRA-2020-0002).<sup>1</sup> Specifically, FRA extended the relief previously granted to ASLRRA in the ERD from certain provisions of 49 CFR Parts 213, 214, 217, 218, 220, 228, 232, 236, 240, and 242.

FRA's September 18, 2020, letter noted that the conditions of the relief in that letter were generally consistent with the conditions FRA imposed with the previously granted relief in the ERD. However, FRA inadvertently omitted the requirement previously imposed for a railroad utilizing any of the authorized relief from FRA's Track Safety Standards (49 CFR Part 213) to create, maintain, and provide to FRA, records of each instance it uses the relief.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly, this letter corrects that oversight and amends the "Specific Conditions of Relief" under "Part 213 – Track Safety Standards" in FRA's September 18, 2020, letter to add condition number 4 to read as follows:

- "4. Railroad track owners must maintain a record of each instance this waiver is implemented for a period of 1 year. The record must contain the following information:
- a. Railroad track owner;
  - b. Date inspection is due;
  - c. Type of inspection;
  - d. Milepost or marker;
  - e. Territory/Subdivision;
  - f. Date/Time of inspection; and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://regulations.gov/document/FRA-2020-0063-0003>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FRA-2020-0002-0025>.

g. Results of inspection.

By the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, any railroad that utilized any relief from Part 213 as described above during the previous month, must submit to FRA the records required by this condition. The records must be submitted by e-mail, in Microsoft Excel file format, to FRA's Track Safety Division Staff Director ([Yujiang.zhang@dot.gov](mailto:Yujiang.zhang@dot.gov)).”

FRA's September 18, 2020, letter remains otherwise unchanged.

FRA looks forward to working with you to help ensure the continued safety of railroad operations during this national emergency. If you have questions, I can be reached at 202-493-6282, or at [karl.alexey@dot.gov](mailto:karl.alexey@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

Karl Alexy  
Associate Administrator for Railroad Safety  
Chief Safety Officer