



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION (FRA)

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: FRA-26-23LS

POSITION TITLE: Railroad Safety Inspector
(Signal Train Control), GS-2121-12 Full
Performance Level: GS-12
\$ 76,463 - \$ 99,404 per annum
(Base Salary only; Locality will be added
based on duty location at selection time)
Note: This position has special job requirements.
See page 3.

POSITION LOCATION: Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Railroad Safety, District 1:
Auburn, Androscoggin, Maine;
Augusta, Kennebec, Maine
Bangor, Penobscot, Maine
Bar Harbor, Hancock, Maine;
Northampton, Hampshire,
Massachusetts; Lowell, Middlesex,
Massachusetts
Geographical areas

Who May Apply: Current FRA Wide Status candidates that are GS-2121-12 in the Signal and Train Control discipline. This is a voluntary reassignment.

OPENING DATE: 03/22/2026

CLOSING DATE: 04/05/2026

NUMBER AND TYPE: One Full-Time Permanent Position

It is required to email, applications to ensure timely receipt.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Candidates will not be hired based on their race, sex, color, religion, or national origin

Why Work For Us?

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

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) promulgates and enforces rail safety regulations; consolidates government support of rail transportation activities; administers financial assistance programs; conducts research and development in support of improved railroad safety and efficiency, and national transportation policy, including improved intercity passenger service.

FRA is committed to fostering a highly skilled workforce capable of meeting or exceeding our strategic goals with efficiency, innovation, and a constant focus on better serving our customers.

You will serve as a Railroad Safety Inspector (Signal & Train Control). As an inspector you will enforce Federal safety and health regulations that are concern with signal and train control and highway crossing warning systems within an assigned territory. The objective of this position is to inspect for compliance with Federal laws, regulations, rules and standards and seeks corrections for unsafe conditions pertaining to the installation, operation, maintenance or manufacturing of railroad signal and train control and highway-rail crossing warning systems. The demands of the position require skills in evaluation, fact-finding, report writing; comprehension and application of technical and regulatory standards, as well as the ability to gain cooperation of individuals and organizations.

Summary Of The Essential Job Functions: As a Railroad Safety Inspector (Signals and Train Control), you will be required to:

- Plans and carries out an itinerary of periodic inspections of all signal and train control and highway-rail grade crossing warning systems in the territory to ensure that they are properly installed, operated, tested, and maintained.
- Performs highly technical investigations to determine the cause of signal and train control and highway-rail grade crossing warning system failures; e.g. "false proceeds" "activation failures."
- Investigates complaints from railroad employees, union officials, and the general public regarding unsafe or hazardous signal and train control or highway-rail crossing conditions; e.g. improper signal aspects, hours of service violations.
- Investigates independently, or as part of a team, reportable collisions, derailments, and other accidents.
- Conducts safety meetings and training sessions for railroad employees regarding signal and train control and highway-rail grade crossing warning systems, signalman hours of service, and roadway worker protection issues.

Other Special Job Requirements

- If selected, you will be required to possess and maintain a valid State driver's license at all times while employed by the FRA in order to perform the duties of the position.
- If selected, you will be required to pass a Drug Test prior to appointment unless you are presently employed in a DOT position that requires drug testing. You also will be subject to random drug testing while employed in this safety-sensitive position.
- The position requires extensive travel.
- This position is eligible for Mobile Work, and the selectee must work/reside within the geographic area of the duty location stated above. The duty location for a mobile worker is usually the residence or other approved telework site. The actual duty location is subject to approval by Supervisor. Salary will be adjusted based on the duty location.
- Please note that you may be required to file an annual financial disclosure.
- All employees are subject to the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, set out in Title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 2635, including restrictions on owning financial interests that may conflict with performance of their duties.

How Will The Qualified Applicants Be Further Evaluated And Rated To Identify The Best Qualified?

Railroad Safety Inspectors STC, GS-2121-12, who are interested in voluntary reassignment may apply for the Railroad Safety Inspector, GS-2121-12 positions by applying in accordance with the application procedures outlined in vacancy announcements.

The employee must meet the following criteria below to receive consideration for the voluntary reassignment:

- 1. Occupies the same Railroad Safety Inspector discipline as the vacancy.
- 2. Has not received any Letters of Reprimand or suspensions within the most recent twelve (12) months.
- 3. Is not currently under investigation for potential misconduct. If the employee is deemed ineligible due to an ongoing investigation, the employee must be informed they are under investigation.
- 4. Has a "Fully Successful" or better on their most recent performance appraisal and has not been on a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) within the most recent twelve (12) months.
- 5. Has not been voluntarily reassigned within the most recent twelve (12) months.
- 6. Has the most seniority of applicants, which is defined as:
 - a. Being a Railroad Safety Inspector at the GS-2121-12 level with the earliest FRA Entrance on Duty date based on continuous FRA service; or
 - b. An FRA candidate with the earliest promotion date to the position of Railroad Safety Inspector, GS-2121-12.
 - Ties will be broken on the basis of the earliest Service Computation Date.

Before You Go Any Further, Here Are Some Other Things You Need to Know

- United States citizenship is required. (Proof of citizenship will be required to be shown upon appointment.)
- If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 26 or were born after December 31, 1959, certification is required at the time you are employed that you have registered with the Selective Service for the draft, unless Selective Service has approved a waiver for you.
- You must meet the requirements by the closing date of the announcement.
- The FRA has determined that railroad seniority rights, leaves of absence, and reemployment rights generally constitute an actual or an appearance of a conflict of interest. Employees may be required to divest themselves of such rights immediately upon hire if these rights are determined to constitute an actual or appearance of a conflict of interest. If employees are permitted to retain such rights, which is generally the case for Railroad Safety positions, the rights must be divested at the end of the one year probationary period. No waivers of this requirement will be granted.
- FRA employees are prohibited from owning railroad stock, except, under certain circumstances, as part of a diversified mutual fund.
- If selected, you will be subject to the Standards of Ethical Conduct applicable to all DOT employees.
- **TRAVEL EXPENSES:** Travel and transportation expenses WILL NOT be paid.
- **GOVERNMENT TRAVEL CARD REQUIREMENT:** You must be able to obtain and retain a Government contractor-issued travel card to be used for official business as a condition of employment. If unable to obtain and/or retain a card, you may be subject to removal. Those who fail to meet this condition of employment will have our offer of employment rescinded.

How To Apply For This Position

- 1) This vacancy announcement will only accept a **complete** Voluntary Reassignment Application Form for consideration for voluntary reassignment to Railroad Safety Inspector, GS-12 positions under Article 11, Section E of the Memorandum of Agreement between the FRA and the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2814 dated November 21, 2024. If you are not eligible under the above Article 11, Section E, you must submit an application through USAJOBS.

Where To Send Your Application

- Email your application to FRARRSJOBS@dot.gov and [HR Specialist email](#)
- **Please use the following subject line: FRA-26-XX (Internal Announcement Number)**
- Applications mailed in a government envelope will not be accepted.

Questions?

Contact the Office of Human Resources at frarrsjobs@dot.gov. Please reference the announcement number so we can help you more efficiently.

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: If you need a copy of this announcement in an alternative

format to accommodate a disability, please contact the Office at Human Resources at the email above.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you are requesting reasonable accommodation in connection with applying for this vacancy, please contact FRA Reasonable Accommodation Office at frareasonableaccommodation@dot.gov.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

VOLUNTARY REASSIGNMENT APPLICATION FORM

Complete the form and return to

NOTE: This form may only be used by FRA employees who are eligible for consideration for voluntary reassignment to Railroad Safety Inspector positions at the GS-12 grade level under Article 11, Section E of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Railroad Administration and the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2814, dated November 2024. All other applicants must file complete application forms in accordance with the instructions in the vacancy announcement.

Vacancy Announcement Number:

Duty Location of Vacancy:

Name of Applicant:

Address:

Telephone Number: Home

Office

Cell

Current Railroad Safety Inspector Discipline:

Current Duty Location:

Summary Rating of Last Performance Appraisal:

Date of Last Reassignment:

Reassigned From:

Reassigned To:

Entrance on Duty Date with the FRA:

Date Assigned to the GS-12 Grade Level:

Signature:

Date: