



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Memorandum

Date: June 15, 1998

Reply to Att. of: MP&E 98-68

Subject: Locomotives Used in Switching Service - Location End Handholds

From: Edward R. English
Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance

To: Regional Administrators, Deputy Regional Administrators,
Motive Power & Equipment Specialists and Inspectors

Questions have been raised regarding the placement of horizontal end handholds relative to the side of locomotive as referenced in 49 CFR 231.30(g)(1)(ii).

When the switching step regulation was developed, some handholds were installed by measuring from the side of the locomotive and some from the side of the end plate. The placement of the preponderance of end handholds is measured from the side of the end plate. Electro-Motive and General Electric have been and are presently applying subject handholds in relation to the side of the end plate.

The Federal Railroad Administration will not take exception, if application of horizontal end handhold placement is measured from either the side of the locomotive or side of the end plate.

Please be governed accordingly.

#