



POSITIVE TRAIN CONTROL

For decades, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has advocated for railroads to implement Positive Train Control. Simply put: PTC helps prevent accidents and ultimately saves lives.

What is Positive Train Control?

Positive Train Control is a group of safety systems designed to prevent several different types of accidents: over-speed derailments, train-to-train collisions, trains entering an established work zone, and a train entering the wrong track due to a switch left in the wrong position.

Who is required to implement PTC?

In 2008, Congress required Class I railroads handling poisonous-inhalation-hazard materials over their mainlines and any railroad with regularly scheduled intercity or commuter rail passenger service to implement PTC.

When does PTC have to be implemented?

While Congress initially set December 31, 2015, as the deadline for full PTC implementation, last year it extended the deadline by at least three years to December 31, 2018. Congress also allowed railroads to be eligible for additional time, up to December 31, 2020, to complete implementation if certain milestones have been met.

What has FRA done to help Railroads implement PTC?

- FRA has provided more than \$716 million to passenger railroads, including nearly \$400 million in Recovery Act funding.
- Issued a nearly \$1 billion loan to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to implement PTC on the Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North.
- Awarded \$25 million in competitive grant funding to railroads, suppliers and state and local governments. Many awards will help railroads achieve interoperability among the different PTC systems that railroads are deploying.
- Making \$199 million in grants available to commuter railroads in fiscal year 2017 to implement PTC.
- Building a PTC testbed at the Transportation Technology Center (TTC) in Pueblo, Colorado.
- Working directly with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to improve the approval process for PTC communication towers.
- Dedicating staff to work on PTC implementation, including establishing a PTC task force.

How can I find out when railroads plan to have Positive Train Control implemented and about individual railroad progress?

For updates, visit www.fra.dot.gov/ptc.