NOTIFICATION

The following notification is being circulated in accordance with Article 10.6

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| **1.** | **Notifying Member:** United States of America  **If applicable, name of local government involved (Article 3.2 and 7.2):** |
| **2.** | **Agency responsible:** Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) [1589]  **Name and address (including telephone and fax numbers, email and website addresses, if available) of agency or authority designated to handle comments regarding the notification shall be indicated if different from above:**  Please submit comments to: USA WTO TBT Enquiry Point, Email: [usatbtep@nist.gov](mailto:usatbtep@nist.gov) |
| **3.** | **Notified under Article 2.9.2 [****X],** **2.10.1 [****],** **5.6.2 [****X],** **5.7.1 [****],** **other****:** |
| **4.** | **Products covered (HS or CCCN where applicable, otherwise national tariff heading. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable):** Railroad track safety; Railway or tramway track construction material of iron or steel, the following: rails, check-rails and rack rails, switch blades, crossing frogs, point rods and other crossing pieces, sleepers (cross-ties), fish-plates, chairs, chair wedges, sole plates (base plates), rail clips, bedplates, ties and other material specialized for jointing or fixing rails (HS 7302); Quality (ICS 03.120), Test conditions and procedures in general (ICS 19.020), Railway engineering in general (ICS 45.020), Materials and components for railway engineering (ICS 45.040), Rails and railway components (ICS 45.080) |
| **5.** | **Title, number of pages and language(s) of the notified document:** Rail Integrity Amendments & Track Safety Standards (27 page(s), in English) |
| **6.** | **Description of content:** Notice of proposed rulemaking - FRA is proposing to revise its regulations governing the minimum safety requirements for railroad track. The proposed changes include allowing inspection of rail using continuous rail testing; allowing the use of flange-bearing frogs in crossing diamonds; relaxing the guard check gage limits on heavy-point frogs used in Class 5 track; removing an inspection-method exception for high-density commuter lines; and other miscellaneous revisions. Overall, the proposed revisions would benefit track owners, railroads, and the public by reducing unnecessary costs and incentivizing innovation, while not negatively affecting rail safety. |
| **7.** | **Objective and rationale, including the nature of urgent problems where applicable:** Protection of human health or safety; Quality requirements |
| **8.** | **Relevant documents:**   * 84 Federal Register (FR) 72526, 31 December 2019; Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 213:  [<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-12-31/html/2019-27748.htm>](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-12-31/html/2019-27748.htm) <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-12-31/pdf/2019-27748.pdf> * Regulatory Impact Analysis available on Regulations.gov at: [<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FRA-2018-0104-0001>](https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FRA-2018-0104-0001) |
| **9.** | **Proposed date of adoption:** To be determined  **Proposed date of entry into force:** To be determined |
| **10.** | **Final date for comments:** 2 March 2020 |
| **11.** | **Texts available from: National enquiry point [** **]** **or address, telephone and fax numbers and email and website addresses, if available, of other body:**  <https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2020/TBT/USA/20_0398_00_e.pdf> |