

ITEM NO. 4

**Code of Federal Regulations
Track Safety Standards
Title 49 Part 213.237**

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration - Office of Safety

Code of Federal Regulations

Title 49



Track Safety Standards Part 213

Subpart A to F Class of Track 1-5

*Includes latest revision of October 8, 1998
Print Date: June 1, 2000*

Distributed By:

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§ 213.235 Inspection of switches, track crossings, and lift rail assemblies or other transition devices on moveable bridges.

- (a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, each switch, turnout, track crossing, and moveable bridge lift rail assembly or other transition device shall be inspected on foot at least monthly.
- (b) Each switch in Classes 3 through 5 track that is held in position only by the operating mechanism and one connecting rod shall be operated to all of its positions during one inspection in every 3 month period.
- (c) In the case of track that is used less than once a month, each switch, turnout, track crossing, and moveable bridge lift rail assembly or other transition device shall be inspected on foot before it is used.

§ 213.237 Inspection of rail.

- (a) In addition to the track inspections required by § 213.233, a continuous search for internal defects shall be made of all rail in Classes 4 through 5 track, and Class 3 track over which passenger trains operate, at least once every 40 million gross tons (mgt) or once a year, whichever interval is shorter. On Class 3 track over which passenger trains do not operate such a search shall be made at least once every 30 mgt or once a year, whichever interval is longer. **(This paragraph (a) is applicable January 1, 1999.)**

- (b) Inspection equipment shall be capable of detecting defects between joint bars, in the area enclosed by joint bars.
- (c) Each defective rail shall be marked with a highly visible marking on both sides of the web and base.
- (d) If the person assigned to operate the rail defect detection equipment being used determines that, due to rail surface conditions, a valid search for internal defects could not be made over a particular length of track, the test on that particular length of track cannot be considered as a search for internal defects under paragraph (a) of this section. **(This paragraph (d) is not retroactive to tests performed prior to September 21, 1998.)**
- (e) If a valid search for internal defects cannot be conducted for reasons described in paragraph (d) of this section, the track owner shall, before the expiration of time or tonnage limits—
 - (1) Conduct a valid search for internal defects;
 - (2) Reduce operating speed to a maximum of 25 miles per hour until such time as a valid search for internal defects can be made; or
 - (3) Remove the rail from service.

§ 213.239 Special inspections.

In the event of fire, flood, severe storm, or other occurrence which might have damaged track structure, a special inspection shall be made of the track involved as soon as possible after the occurrence and, if possible, before the operation of any train over that track.