

Questions for Phone Interview with BMWED Director of Education and Safety

This interview concerns the track inspection process. The Federal Railroad Administration will use this information in preparing a Report to Congress as required by the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008. Your answers and comments will inform possible future FRA policy and regulatory actions and improve overall railroad operational safety.

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you may choose to end your participation at any time. This data collection is authorized by law. Your identity will be kept private and known only to myself (the interviewer) and the study manager.

Public reporting burden for this information collection is less than 1 hour, including time for explaining the interview process, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. I am required by law to give you the OMB control number which is OMB No. 2130-XXXX and the expiration date is YYYY.

1. How long have you been a full-time union official?
2. How long have you held your current position?
3. How long did you work in track inspection?
4. What types of *initial* inspection-related training exist in the industry today? Offered by the railroads? Offered by BMWED? Others?
5. What types of *follow-up* training? Offered by the railroads? Offered by BMWED? Others?
6. What additional inspection-related training would better prepare an individual to perform track inspection?
7. What factors influence the speed at which the hi-railer operates during inspections?
8. What types of automated inspections do your members find useful? In what way are they useful?
 - a. Ultrasonic rail flaw detection
 - b. Gage restraint measurements (GRMS or PTLF)
 - c. Track geometry measurements
 - d. Vehicle track interaction (impact loads and vehicle dynamics)
 - e. Anything else?
9. With regard to the table that you completed prior to this conversation, could you suggest a means to improve detection of those conditions that you indicated as “not readily detectable”?
10. What factors are present that hinder your members in performing quality inspections (e.g., staffing, equipment, lack of automated inspections)?
11. What equipment would aid the track inspector in safely performing inspections?

12. What track inspection issues do your members bring to your attention? (probe on how territory size affects speed of inspection)
13. What changes, if any, would you recommend in current FRA track inspection requirements?
14. Are there any other aspects of the inspection process that you would like to comment on for FRA consideration in preparing its Report to Congress?

Please complete the table on the following page and send it to your interviewer before your phone conversation.

Track Condition	How do your members commonly detect each condition? (Check all that apply.)			
	Visual		Results of Automated Inspection	Not readily detectable
	on foot	hi-rail		

Geometry

Gage dimension less than/greater than allowable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alinement deviation exceeds allowable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maximum crosslevel exceeds allowable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Runoff at end of raise exceeds allowable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deviation from uniform profile on either rail exceeds allowable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Difference in crosslevel (warp) exceeds allowable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reverse elevation on curve exceeds allowable	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ballast

Insufficient ballast	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fouled ballast	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ties

Ineffective/defective ties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rail seat abrasion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Track constructed without crossties does not effectively support track structure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Rail/joints

Broken rail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worn rail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rail-end mismatch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cracked or broken joint bar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insufficient number of joint bolts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loose/worn joint bars	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Torch-cut or burned bolt hole in rail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Switches

Track Condition	How do your members commonly detect each condition? (Check all that apply.)			
	Visual		Results of Automated Inspection	Not readily detectable
	on foot	hi-rail		
Stock rail/ switch point not seated or functioning as intended	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loose, worn, or missing switch components	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fasteners/anchors				
Insufficient/ineffective fasteners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insufficient anchors to restrain rail movement at turnouts or CWR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frogs				
Insufficient flangeway depth/width	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Worn or defective frog/frog components	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Misc.				
Heat kinks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Right-of-way obstructions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Object between base of rail and the bearing surface of the tie plate causing concentrated load	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Insufficient/defective tie plates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Missing or damaged signage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Track washouts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poor drainage/pumping ties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Excessive vegetation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Defective derail conditions(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>