



Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen

Texas State Legislative Board

A Division of the Rail Conference - International Brotherhood of Teamsters

7083 Baker Blvd., Richland Hills, Texas 76118

Phone: (817) 285-7668

Cell: (903) 456-2949

E-Mail: chairman@tslb.org

Fax: (817) 590-9220

TERRY D. BRIGGS

Chairman

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TO: BLET Divisions – Texas

RE: Cab Sanitation

Brothers and Sisters,

The FRA Final Rule on Cab Sanitation was published in 2002. Since that time the TSLB has been working to educate the carriers and our members regarding the requirements set forth in the final rule. Recently, however, this office has received some questions regarding unsanitary locomotive toilets at some locations in Texas. Since it has been several years since the final rule was published a refresher (pun intended) regarding the requirements of the regulation is timely.

FRA did several things with the publication of the cab sanitation final rule. The most important is FRA created the regulation that states that all *lead* locomotives *shall be equipped* with a sanitation compartment. The regulation further requires that each sanitation compartment *shall be*:

- (1) Adequately ventilated;
- (2) Equipped with a door that closes and is equipped with a modesty lock;
- (3) Equipped with a toilet facility as defined by the regulations;
- (4) Equipped with a washing system that meets the requirements of the regulations unless the railroad furnishes the washing system to employees when they report for duty or when occupying the locomotive cab for duty (typically in crew packs);
- (5) Equipped with toilet paper in a sufficient quantity to meet the employees' needs unless the railroad furnishes the toilet paper to employees when they report for duty or when occupying the locomotive cab for duty;

The requirement for a locomotive to be equipped with a sanitation compartment does not apply to locomotives used in commuter or other short haul passenger service including push pull service; commuter work train service; switching service; transfer service; or on short line or tourist railroads *as long as the employees engaged in these services have ready access to railroad-provided sanitation facilities, that meet otherwise applicable sanitation requirements, at frequent intervals during the tour of duty.* However, if any occupied locomotive used in any of the services mentioned here is equipped with a sanitation compartment, it must be sanitary.

The second most important aspect of the sanitation regulations is the requirement that, *in order for a locomotive to be placed or remain in the lead position, as of the daily inspection, all aspects of the toilet facility (including all the sanitation compartment requirements above) must be operating as intended and it must be sanitary.*