Federal Railroad Administration, DOT

Subpart F—Introduction of New Brake System Technology

§ 232.501 Scope.
This subpart contains general requirements for introducing new brake system technologies. This subpart is intended to facilitate the introduction of new complete brake system technologies or major upgrades to existing systems which the current regulations do not adequately address (i.e., electronic brake systems). This subpart is not intended for use in the introduction of a new brake component or material.

§ 232.503 Process to introduce new brake system technology.
(a) Pursuant to the procedures contained in §232.17, each railroad shall obtain special approval from the FRA Associate Administrator for Safety of a pre-revenue service acceptance testing plan, developed pursuant to §232.505, for the new brake system technology, prior to implementing the plan.
(b) Each railroad shall complete a pre-revenue service demonstration of the new brake system technology in accordance with the approved plan, shall fulfill all of the other requirements prescribed in §232.505, and shall obtain special approval from the FRA Associate Administrator for Safety under the procedures of §232.17 prior to using such brake system technology in revenue service.

§ 232.505 Pre-revenue service acceptance testing plan.
(a) General; submission of plan. Except as provided in paragraph (f) of this section, before using a new brake system technology for the first time on its system the operating railroad or railroads shall submit a pre-revenue service acceptance testing plan containing the information required by paragraph (e) of this section and obtain the approval of the FRA Associate Administrator for Safety, under the procedures specified in §232.17.
(b) Compliance with plan. The plan shall include all of the following elements:
(1) An identification of each waiver, if any, of FRA or other Federal safety regulations required for the tests or for revenue service operation of the equipment.
(2) A clear statement of the test objectives. One of the principal test objectives shall be to demonstrate that the equipment meets the safety design and performance requirements specified in this part when operated in the environment in which it is to be used.
(3) A planned schedule for conducting the tests.
(4) A description of the railroad property or facilities to be used to conduct the tests.
(5) A detailed description of how the tests are to be conducted. This description shall include:
(ii) The method by which the equipment is to be tested;
(iii) The criteria to be used to evaluate the equipment’s performance; and
(iv) The means by which the test results are to be reported to FRA.