

TTSD Responsibilities

The primary mission of the TTSD is to manage the Office of Railroad Safety's Technical Training Program for over 650 Federal and participating State railroad safety inspectors and specialists of the five technical disciplines (Hazardous Materials, Motive Power and Equipment, Operating Practices, Signal and Train Control, and Track). To accomplish this mission, the TTSD designs, develops, and delivers specialized internal courses, in accordance with a strict model referred to as a Systematic Approach to Training (SAT). TTSD also administers contract training from external sources as necessary.

Technical training is based on organizational needs and, therefore, is considered mandatory. Various types of analyses are performed to determine the organizational needs, including feedback from Headquarters, the regions, and the inspectors. Each year, the TTSD develops a catalog of courses and a training calendar of formal classroom training. On average, the TTSD manages approximately 50 classes in 23 different courses of study each year.

The TTSD also develops, implements, and monitors a formal on-the-job training program for new safety inspectors and inspector trainees. The eight FRA regions are responsible for actual implementation of the on-the-job training program.

Other major responsibilities of the TTSD include:

1. Technical review and approval of all railroad training programs as well as conducting periodic oversight audits to ensure proper implementation.
2. Evaluation of the general and discipline-specific compliance manuals, with a goal of ensuring inspection task guidelines are clearly defined.
3. Formal workforce planning efforts for Federal railroad safety inspectors, including management of specialized training efforts for topics that bridge gaps between technical and non-technical training (such as report writing, specialized computer programs, behaviors, values, attitudes, etc.).
4. Improvement and development of internal processes necessary for the Office of Railroad Safety to meet program goals and objectives.
5. Support of Risk Reduction Programs in terms of developing and implementing Memorandum of Understanding documents in connection with Close Call Confidential Reporting (C3RS), and peer-to-peer coaching training of external stakeholders.