



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Memorandum

Date: June 15, 1998

Reply to Att. of: MP&E 98-37

Subject: Inspection Requirements for Locomotives that Operate into the United States from
Either Canada or Mexico

From: Edward R. English
Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance

To: Regional Administrators, Deputy Regional Administrators,
Motive Power & Equipment Specialists and Inspectors

With the increase of railroad traffic at both the U.S./Canadian and the U.S./Mexican borders, inspectors should be governed by the following information relative to required daily and periodic inspections and tests for locomotives.

The purpose of daily and periodic inspections and tests is to ascertain that locomotives that operate in the United States are in compliance with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations, 49 CFR Part 229, *Railroad Locomotive Safety Standards*.

Locomotives that operate outside of the United States are governed by the laws of the country where they operate. Neither Canada nor Mexico require the types of inspections that are commensurate with the tests and inspections described in 49 CFR Sections 229.21, 229.23, 229.25, 229.27 and 229.29. However, the FRA requires that all locomotives that operate in the United States must be in full compliance with Federal Laws and Regulations.

FRA requires that all locomotives entering the United States from either Canada or Mexico, must not be used until all the tests and inspections required by Section 229.21, et al., have been completed and properly recorded. Those inspections and tests must be done at the point of entry into the United States, or arranged to be done within Canada or Mexico prior to entry into this country. If the inspections and tests are not properly performed and/or the locomotive is not in compliance with FRA regulations upon entry into the United States, the locomotives may be moved only under the provisions of Section 229.9 as a dead or lite locomotive.

#