



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION (FRA)

ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: FRA-26-65DP

POSITION TITLE: Railroad Safety Inspector (Motive Power & Equipment), GS-2121-12
Full Performance Level:GS-12
\$ 76,463- \$ 99,404 per annum
(Base Salary only; Locality will be added based on duty location at selection time)
Note: This position has special job requirements. See page 3.

POSITION LOCATION: Federal Railroad Administration
Office of Railroad Safety,
Duty Location: District 4- Cook County, Illinois; Kane County, Illinois; Will County, Illinois; DuPage County, Illinois; Lake County, Illinois; Newton County, Indiana
Geographical areas

WHO MAY APPLY: Current FRA Wide Status candidates that are GS-2121-12 in the Motive Power & Equipment discipline. This position is a voluntary reassignment.

OPENING DATE: 08/24/2026

CLOSING DATE: 09/07/2026

NUMBER AND TYPE: One Full-Time Permanent Position

It is required to email applications to ensure timely receipt.

Equal Opportunity Employer

Candidates will not be hired based on their race, sex, color, religion, or national origin

Why Work For Us?

The Federal Railroad Administration's mission is to enable the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods for a strong America, now and in the future.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) promulgates and enforces rail safety regulations; consolidates government support of rail transportation activities; administers financial assistance programs; conducts research and development in support of improved railroad safety and efficiency, and national transportation policy, including improved intercity passenger service.

FRA is committed to fostering a highly skilled workforce capable of meeting or exceeding our strategic goals with efficiency, innovation, and a constant focus on better serving our customers.

Summary Of The Essential Job Functions: As a Railroad Safety Inspector (Motive Power & Equipment), you will be required to:

The incumbent serves as a Motive Power and Equipment (MP&E) Inspector within an assigned territory covering portions of a state or several states. The inspector has responsibility for the improvement and advancement of railroad safety in areas related to design, construction, inspection, maintenance and use of railroad rolling stock and related appurtenances.

- Carry out periodic inspections to ensure uniform application of and compliance with motive power and equipment regulations, rules and laws.
- Conduct investigations of accidents which result in serious injury to persons or property of the railroads and develop comprehensive reports of findings and recommendations.
- Investigate complaints of unsafe conditions or noncompliance with motive power and equipment, safety appliance and power brake laws.
- Promote cooperation between FRA, carriers, shippers, labor organizations and States to improve railroad safety.

What Are The Minimum Qualifications For This Position?

You must have at least one year of specialized experience in or directly related to the essential job functions described above. For Federal employees this experience must have been at the next lower grade level. If you want us to consider experience you obtained outside the Federal Government, it must have been at that same level of complexity. The specialized experience must demonstrate:

- Broad knowledge of the railroad industry including economic and operating considerations and equipment;
- Knowledge of the general safety and health principles and practices applicable to the railroad industry;
- Knowledge of railroad accident investigation techniques;
- Skill in written and oral communication.
- Knowledge of the design, maintenance, or inspection of various types of locomotive and freight cars currently in use and their capabilities and limitations;
- Knowledge of the installation, maintenance, or testing of railroad safety appliances and power brakes, their capabilities and limitations; and
- Knowledge of Federal laws and regulations pertaining to inspection and testing of locomotives, freight cars, safety appliances, and power brakes.

What Are The Desired Knowledge, Skills And Abilities For This Job?

See the Qualification Requirements listed above.

Other Special Job Requirements:

- If selected, you will be required to possess and maintain a valid State driver's license at all times while employed by the FRA in order to perform the duties of the position.
- If selected, you will be required to pass a Drug Test prior to appointment unless you are presently employed in a DOT position that requires drug testing. You also will be subject to random drug testing while employed in this safety-sensitive position.
- The position requires extensive travel.
- This position is eligible for Mobile Work, and the selectee must work/reside within the geographic area of the duty location stated above. The duty location for a mobile worker is usually the residence or other approved telework site. The actual duty location is subject to approval by Supervisor. Salary will be adjusted based on the duty location. The actual duty location is subject to approval by the Deputy Staff Director and/or Railroad Safety management. Salary will be adjusted based on the duty location..
- Please note that you may be required to file an annual financial disclosure.
- All employees are subject to the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch, set out in Title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 2635, including restrictions on owning financial interests that may conflict with performance of their duties.

How Will The Qualified Applicants Be Further Evaluated And Rated To Identify The Best Qualified?

In order to receive consideration, employees occupying the position of Railroad Safety Inspector, GS-2121-12, who are interested in voluntary reassignment may apply for the Railroad Safety Inspector, GS-2121-12 positions by applying in accordance with the application procedures outlined in vacancy announcements.

The employee must meet the following criteria below to receive consideration for the voluntary reassignment:

1. Occupies the same Railroad Safety Inspector discipline as the vacancy.
2. Has not received any Letters of Reprimand or suspensions within the most recent twelve (12) months.
3. Is not currently under investigation for potential misconduct. If the employee is deemed ineligible due to an ongoing investigation, the employee must be informed they are under investigation.
4. Has a "Fully Successful" or better on their most recent performance appraisal and has not been on a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) within the most recent twelve (12) months.
5. Has not been voluntarily reassigned within the most recent twelve (12) months.
6. Has the most seniority of applicants, which is defined as:
 - a. Being a Railroad Safety Inspector at the GS-2121-12 level with the earliest Entrance on Duty date based on continuous FRA service; or
 - b. An FRA candidate with the earliest promotion date to the position of Railroad Safety Inspector, GS-2121-12.

- Ties will be broken on the basis of the earliest Service Computation Date.

Before You Go Any Further, Here Are Some Other Things You Need to Know

- United States citizenship is required. (Proof of citizenship will be required to be shown upon appointment.)
- If you are a male between the ages of 18 and 26 or were born after December 31, 1959, certification is required at the time you are employed that you have registered with the Selective Service for the draft, unless Selective Service has approved a waiver for you.
- You must meet the requirements by the closing date of the announcement.
- The FRA has determined that railroad seniority rights, leaves of absence, and reemployment rights generally constitute an actual or an appearance of a conflict of interest. Employees may be required to divest themselves of such rights immediately upon hire if these rights are determined to constitute an actual or appearance of a conflict of interest. If employees are permitted to retain such rights, which is generally the case for Railroad Safety positions, the rights must be divested at the end of the one year probationary period. No waivers of this requirement will be granted.
- FRA employees are prohibited from owning railroad stock, except, under certain circumstances, as part of a diversified mutual fund.
- If selected, you will be subject to the Standards of Ethical Conduct applicable to all DOT employees.
- **TRAVEL EXPENSES:** Travel and transportation expenses WILL NOT be paid.
- **GOVERNMENT TRAVEL CARD REQUIREMENT:** You must be able to retain a Government contractor-issued travel card to be used for official business as a condition of employment. If unable to obtain and/or retain a card, you may be subject to removal. Those who fail to meet this condition of employment will have our offer of employment rescinded.

How To Apply For This Position

- 1) This vacancy announcement will only accept the Voluntary Reassignment Application Form for consideration for voluntary reassignment to Railroad Safety Inspector, GS-12 positions under Article 09, Section E of the Memorandum of Agreement between the FRA and the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2814 dated November 21, 2024. If you are not eligible under the above Article 11, Section E, you must submit an application through USAJOBS.

Where To Send Your Application

- Email your application to FRARRSJOB@dot.gov and don.parker@dot.gov.
- **Please use the following subject line: FRA-26-65DP**
- Applications mailed in a government envelope will not be accepted.

Questions?

Contact the Office of Human Resources at frarrsjobs@dot.gov. Please reference the announcement number so we can help you more efficiently.

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS: If you need a copy of this announcement in an alternative format to accommodate a disability, please contact the Office at Human Resources at the email above.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION: If you are requesting reasonable accommodation in connection with applying for this vacancy, please contact FRA Reasonable Accommodation Office at frareasonableaccommodation@dot.gov.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

VOLUNTARY REASSIGNMENT APPLICATION FORM

Complete the form and return to

NOTE: This form may only be used by FRA employees who are eligible for consideration for voluntary reassignment to Railroad Safety Inspector positions at the GS-12 grade level under Article 11, Section E of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Federal Railroad Administration and the American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2814, dated November 2024. All other applicants must file complete application forms in accordance with the instructions in the vacancy announcement.

Vacancy Announcement Number:

Duty Location of Vacancy:

Name of Applicant:

Address:

Telephone Number: Home

Office

Cell

Current Railroad Safety Inspector Discipline:

Current Duty Location:

Summary Rating of Last Performance Appraisal:

Date of Last Reassignment:

Reassigned From:

Reassigned To:

Entrance on Duty Date with the FRA:

Date Assigned to the GS-12 Grade Level:

Signature:

Date: