



Memorandum

U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

Date: January 10, 2005

Reply to Attn of: G-05-20

Subject: Roadway Worker Protection Technical Bulletin
Effective securing device/other instruments

From: 
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To: Regional Administrators
Deputy Regional Administrators
Track Supervisory Specialists
Signal and Train Control Supervisory Specialists
Operating Practices Supervisory Specialists

The current definition of effective securing device under §214.7 does not prescribe what types of devices are acceptable. The section analysis provides some limited discussion with respect to spiking a switch but additional items such as the wedges in portable derails need to be discussed.

An effective securing device is intended to prevent a manually operated switch or derail from being operated causing a hazard to roadway workers present on certain non-controlled tracks. These devices include the use of special locks on switch and derail stands that will accommodate them, and switch point clamps that are properly secured. It also includes the use of a spike driven into the switch tie against the switch point firmly enough that it cannot be removed without proper tools, provided that the rules of the railroad prohibit the removal of the spike by employees not authorized to do so. Every effective securing device must be uniquely tagged.

The language in the regulation clearly shows that the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) acknowledged that there were other securing devices in addition to locks that are acceptable to use, as long as they were vandal resistant, tamper resistant and are designed to be applied, secured, uniquely tagged and removed by the class, craft or group of employees for whom the protection is being provided. The preamble language specifically discussed locks, clamps and spikes when utilized as effective securing devices. Portable derails that are secured with wedges, would also be in compliance with the regulation, as long as the device is secure, vandal and tamper resistant, and can only be removed by the class, craft or group of employees for whom the protection is being provided.

This bulletin is based on consultation with FRA's Office of Chief Counsel. Anyone desiring a formal legal interpretation on any issues discussed in this bulletin should contact that office.

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