



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Transit
Administration**

Office of Transit Safety and Oversight
Washington, DC

SA-14-3

Safety Advisory

08/01/2014

http://www.fta.dot.gov/tso_15922.html

Safety Advisories contain important safety information and may include recommended actions. Safety Advisory content should be especially valuable to rail transit operators in meeting their responsibility to provide service with the highest possible degree of safety in the public interest.

Subject: Vintage/Heritage Trolley Vehicle B and K Operating Controllers

Purpose: The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is issuing *Safety Advisory 14-3* to advise rail transit agencies that operate reconditioned vintage/heritage trolley vehicles manufactured prior to January 1, 1956, of an operating concern regarding **B and K high voltage operating controllers.**

Background: Vintage/heritage trolley vehicles and their components may not meet modern engineering and safety standards, and present unique operational and maintenance challenges.

Action Required: Recent vehicle fires involving B and K high voltage operating controllers represent a safety concern. As such, the FTA is instructing rail transit agencies operating vintage/heritage trolley vehicles to inspect B and K high voltage operating controllers for signs of heat damage, evidence of fire, arcing and flashovers. Agencies should take appropriate corrective actions if evidence of these conditions is discovered. Additionally, please notify Ms. Kimberly Burtch in the FTA Office of System Safety at (202) 366-0816, if any evidence of heat damage, fire, arcing and flashovers is discovered in the inspection process.

Recommended Resources: Please review the following documents for established industry standards:

[APTA Standard for Vintage / Heritage Trolley Vehicle Equipment \(APTA SS-HT-001-05\).](http://www.apta.com/resources/standards/Documents/APTA%20SS-HT-001-05.pdf)
[http://www.apta.com/resources/standards/Documents/APTA%20SS-HT-001-05.pdf.](http://www.apta.com/resources/standards/Documents/APTA%20SS-HT-001-05.pdf)

[Historical Streetcar Section of California Public Utilities Commission \(CPUC\) General Order \(GO\) 143B, Safety Rules and Regulations Governing Light Rail Transit.](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO%20143B.pdf) [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO%20143B.pdf.](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO%20143B.pdf)

Contact: Questions of comments regarding this Safety Advisory should be directed to Ms. Kimberly Burtch, Office of System Safety, at (202) 366-0816 or email: Kimberly.Burtch@dot.gov.