

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION (FTA)**

**Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program
Final Rule**

**Frequently Asked Questions
Last Updated: July 18, 2018**

Question: What is the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program Final Rule?

Answer: The rule sets forth Federal requirements for the training of state personnel who conduct rail transit safety audits and examinations and transit system personnel with direct safety oversight responsibilities.

Question: To whom does the final rule apply?

Answer: Mandatory participation in the Safety Certification Training Program is required of designated state safety oversight agency (SSOA) personnel and their contractors who conduct safety audits and examinations of rail fixed guideway public transportation systems (rail transit), and designated rail transit agency personnel and their contractors who are directly responsible for safety oversight. Other transit safety professionals are encouraged, but not required, to participate in the training program.

Question: Who is “directly responsible for safety oversight”?

Answer: Rail transit agency personnel who are “directly responsible for safety oversight” are those personnel whose primary job function includes the development, implementation and review of the agency’s safety plan and SSOA requirements. Each rail transit agency must designate its personnel that are directly responsible for safety oversight and required to participate in the training program.

Question: Where can I find the list of training requirements?

Answer: The training requirements are in Appendix A to Part 672—Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (49 C.F.R. Part 672). You can also view the requirements on [FTA’s training page](#).

Question: How long do I have to complete the required training?

Answer: Personnel that were designated under the Interim Provisions prior to the publication of the final rule have three years from the final rule's effective date to complete the initial training requirements. Personnel that are designated after the publication of the final rule have three years from the final rule's effective date to complete the initial training requirements. After the completion of initial training, refresher training must be completed every two years. Refresher training for SSOA personnel must include one hour of safety oversight training. If a required course is not yet available, participants will have three years from the course's date of availability to complete it.

Question: Why did FTA develop Interim Provisions before the final rule?

Answer: Federal transit safety law mandated that FTA establish Interim Provisions for the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program that would be effective until FTA published the final rule. FTA created the Interim Provisions to meet the immediate need to train the transit safety oversight workforce.

Question: Are there differences between the Interim Provisions requirements and the final rule?

Answer: Yes. The 36-hour Transit System Security course and the 2-hour Safety Management Systems (SMS) Gap course, which were required under the Interim Provisions, are not required under the final rule. Additionally, the final rule allows participants to request and receive credit for non-FTA-sponsored training..

Question: Why are the SMS Gap course and the Transit System Security course no longer required?

Answer: FTA has determined that the two-hour online SMS Gap training course objectives are included in the online SMS Awareness course and the SMS Principles for Transit course. FTA has removed the Transit System Security course as a requirement because security is not within the general scope of the training required to implement FTA's statutory requirements for safety oversight.

Question: How do I submit a request for equivalency credit for non-FTA-sponsored courses?

Answer: FTA will review and evaluate requests for equivalency credit for previous coursework and training completed outside the Safety Certification Training Program. In determining whether to grant credit for an equivalent course, FTA will consider a number of factors, including,

but not limited to, course completion date, course description, and course objectives. To access the equivalency request form, please go to [Safety Training | FTA](#). For questions, email FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov. Please allow 60 days for evaluation and response.

Question: Will the Interim Provisions coursework that I have completed count toward the course requirements in the final rule?

Answer: Yes. All coursework that has been completed under the Interim Provisions will count towards the requirements of the final rule.

Question: How do I register for classes?

Answer: Please go to the [USDOT Transportation Safety Institute](#) (TSI) website to create an account and to register for classes.

To create an account:

- 1) Select “Public Transportation Safety (FTA)” under “elect your training topic to view course catalog or create a profile”.
- 2) Scroll down to “Welcome to Transit” and select “sign up for account”. (Or, you can select the wheel in the top right-hand corner and click “register”).
- 3) Complete the required fields and click “Log In” at the bottom of the page.

To register for classes:

- 1) Log in with your email or username and password.
- 2) Select “Search Catalog” to search for specific courses, dates, and locations.
- 3) Click “Request” to request a seat in the class.

Once you are logged in to your account, you can update your profile and view your transcript (current enrollments and completed training).

For questions on how to create an account and register for classes, please contact the TSI at 405-954-3682 or email transit@dot.gov.

For questions about course offering you may also email FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov.

Question: Does the Safety Certification Training Program final rule apply to the same group required to take training under the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) final rule?

Answer: The Safety Certification Training Program final rule applies to designated SSOA personnel and contractors who conduct safety audits and examinations of rail transit systems, and designated rail transit agency personnel and contractors who are directly responsible for safety

oversight. There is another group of transit personnel to be trained under the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan final rule requirements which are also applicable to bus operators. This group of employees and contractors are directly responsible for safety and may or may not have direct responsibility for safety oversight.

Question: Can formula funds can be used for training?

Answer: A transit agency's or SSOA's training activities may be eligible for FTA financial assistance through various programs under 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53. Please contact your FTA regional office with specific questions on eligibility of funds for training.

Question: How will FTA verify compliance with safety training requirements?

Answer: SSOAs and rail transit agencies subject to this rule will annually certify compliance with the requirements of the rule as part of the grant certification and assurances process. FTA will verify SSOA compliance through its SSO audit process. SSOAs will be responsible for verifying rail transit agency compliance.

Question: What is the penalty if required personnel do not comply with the rule?

Answer: FTA is committed to helping the transit industry comply with this rule and will continue our extensive outreach, including providing webinars, guidance and technical assistance. Transit agencies and SSOAs must certify compliance with the requirements of the rule to be eligible to receive Federal transit funds. Failure to comply with a requirement of the rule subjects a grantee to a range of FTA enforcement options depending upon the circumstances, including a transit operator being ineligible to receive FTA grant funds until the operator satisfies the requirements of the rule.