

State Safety Oversight (SSO) Final Rule

Fact Sheet



The State Safety Oversight (SSO) final rule significantly strengthens an SSO Agency's (SSOA) authority to investigate accidents and oversee a rail transit agency's (RTA) implementation of its safety rule.

The SSO rule also gives FTA the authority to review and approve each State's SSO program and take enforcement actions against those States with non-existent or non-compliant safety oversight programs.

Effective Date

This rule became effective on April 15, 2016.

Funding

Congress has authorized grant funds for States to use to develop and implement a new SSO Program.

Compliance Deadline

- By **April 15, 2019**, each eligible State must have an approved and certified SSO program.
- If a State fails to meet the certification deadline, FTA **must** withhold all Chapter 53 funds from the entire State.
 - 49 U.S.C. §5329(e)(3): "In order to obligate funds apportioned under section 5338 to carry out this chapter, effective 3 years after the date on which a final rule under this subsection becomes effective, an eligible State shall have in effect a State safety oversight program approved by the Secretary."



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration

SSOA Requirements for Compliance

Every eligible State must establish a State Safety Oversight program which includes an SSOA that:

- Is financially and legally independent from any RTA it oversees;
- Does not directly provide public transportation services in an area with an RTA that the SSOA oversees;
- Does not employ any individual responsible for administering an RTA;
- Has authority to review, approve, oversee, and enforce a safety plan for an RTA;
- Has investigative and enforcement authority with respect to the safety of the RTA;
- At least once every three years, audits every RTA's compliance with safety plan requirements; and
- At least once a year, reports the status of RTA safety to the Governor, the FTA, the board of directors, or equivalent entity.

Additional Resources

Certification Toolkit:

FTA's [SSO Program Certification Toolkit](#) provides guidance to States in managing the new SSO certification process. The toolkit guides States through each section of the certification [application](#).

SSO Program Page:

For more information on the SSO final rule, safety training, SSO Formula Grant Program, SSO certification, and advisories and technical assistance, please visit the [SSO Program page](#).