

I. History of PTC Mandate in U.S.

- Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA) mandated that Positive Train Control (PTC) be implemented across much of the United States railroad system by December 31, 2015
 - Enacted following fatal September 2008 MetroLink rail accident in Los Angeles
- In October 2015, Congress amended RSIA to extend the implementation deadline to December 31, 2018, and included a further extension until December 31, 2020.
 - Railroads were experiencing technical/commercial challenges in meeting the original 2015 deadline
 - A railroad is excepted from the deadline of December 31, 2018 and must complete full implementation of its PTC system by December 31, 2020, or the date specified in its approved alternative schedule and sequence, whichever is earlier, if the railroad has done the following:
 1. Installed all PTC hardware and acquires all spectrum necessary to implement its PTC system by December 31, 2018;
 2. Submitted an alternative schedule and sequence providing for implementation of PTC as soon as practicable, but no later than December 31, 2020;
 3. Completed employee PTC training;
 4. Initiated revenue service demonstration (RSD) on at least one segment that is required to have its operations governed by PTC.
- The following railroads are already on the record with FRA that they will not be completed by the December of 2018 deadline:
 - Trinity Railway Express (Dallas-Fort Worth)
 - Central Florida Rail Corridor
 - Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority
 - Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Rail
 - Canadian National
 - CSX Transportation
 - Norfolk Southern

II. Background

- Summary of functionality
 - PTC refers to communication-based/processor-based train control technology that prevents the following occurrences:
 - train-to-train collisions,
 - overspeed derailments,
 - incursions into established work zone limits, and
 - movement of a train through a main line switch in the improper position.
- Summary of technical and commercial challenges that railroads face in implementing PTC
- Summary of potential fines/penalties/liability in the event that railroads do not satisfy the PTC mandate
- Political and other stakeholder interest in implementing PTC