

# **Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (PTSCTP)**

Summary of Updates

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September 2024



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

# Agenda

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- 2. NPRM Comments**
- 3. Regulatory Updates**
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  - Training Requirements
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- 4. Next Steps**
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# Background

- PTSCTP established by MAP-21 in 2012 (49 U.S.C. 5329(c))
- Initial Final Rule effective August 20, 2018 (49 CFR 672)
- PTSCTP established a uniform safety training curriculum to enhance the Safety Management System (SMS) skills of certain transit safety personnel:
  - **State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) employees and contractors** who conduct safety reviews, inspections, examinations, and other safety oversight activities of a rail fixed guideway public transportation system
  - **Rail Transit Agency (RTA) employees and contractors** who are directly responsible for the safety oversight of a recipient's rail fixed guideway public transportation system
- Since 2018, FTA has issued over 1,500 PTSCTP certificates of completion

# Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)

- FTA published a NPRM on **October 26, 2023**
- The comment period closed on **December 26, 2023**
- FTA received **15 comment submissions**
  - **6** individuals
  - **5** transit agencies
  - **1** State Safety Oversight Agency
  - **1** labor organization, **1** industry association, and **1** nonprofit
- These submissions contained a total of **135 individual comments** on specific topics
  - New and revised definitions
  - New training requirements
  - Voluntary participation
  - New administrative requirements
  - General requirements



# Response to Comments

## FTA reviewed and considered all comments received

- The Final Rule was largely finalized as proposed in the NPRM
  - In response to comments, FTA revised the term “**refresher training**” to “**recertification training**” to clarify the applicability of the training required to maintain PTSCTP certification
- FTA has provided responses to all relevant comments received in the preamble to the Final Rule (available in the *Federal Register*)



# Summary of Updates

- New and revised definitions that did not create new requirements
- Requirement for SSOAs and RTAs to ensure designated personnel and contractors are enrolled within 30 days of designation
- Addition of a recertification training element defined by FTA as part of recertification training requirements
- Clarification of FTA's classification of voluntary participation and what voluntary participation entails, and
- New administrative requirements for SSOAs and RTAs:
  - Establish a point of contact and report semiannually to FTA
- **Effective Date: November 1, 2024**

# New and Revised Definitions (§ 672.5)

**The Final Rule includes new definitions and revised definitions to provide clarity and synchronization with other FTA safety rulemaking. These additions and changes did not create new requirements.**

- Designated personnel
- Federal Transit Administration
- Initial training
- PTSCTP curriculum
- Rail fixed guideway public transportation system
- Rail transit agency
- Recertification
- Recertification training
- Safety review
- Voluntary participant

# New Training Requirements

**The Final Rule includes amended language to provide clarity on enrollment requirements and adds an additional recertification training component**

## **§ 672.11(b) and .13(b)** ***Enrollment requirements***

- Require SSOAs and RTAs to ensure their designated personnel are enrolled in the PTSCTP within 30 days of designation

## **§ 672.11(d) and .13(d)** ***Recertification***

- Maintain existing recertification requirements for agency-defined training and add a recertification training element defined by FTA

## **§ 672.15** ***Evaluation of prior certification and training***

- Clarify existing processes regarding evaluation of prior certification and training



# Voluntary Participants (§ 672.17)

**The Final Rule includes a new section to provide clarification on processes for voluntary participants**

## **§ 672.17 *Voluntary participants***

- Confirms FTA's classification of voluntary PTSCTP participation and what voluntary participation entails
- Clarifies that voluntary participants are not required to complete recertification
  - The mandatory requirements apply only to designated personnel
- Clarifies process for maintaining certification after becoming a designated participant
  - A voluntary participant who has already completed the initial training requirements must complete recertification within two years of designation

# New Administrative Requirements (§ 627.21)

The Final Rule adds new administrative requirements to streamline communication between FTA and applicable agencies

## § 672.21(b) and (c) *Point of contact*

- Requires SSOAs and RTAs to identify a single point of contact to serve as a liaison with FTA regarding PTSCTP records
- Outlines responsibilities of the point of contact

## § 672.21(d) *Semiannual reporting*

- Requires SSOAs and RTAs to provide reports to FTA semiannually including:
  - List of agency participants and their status
  - Agency-defined recertification requirements

# Bus Applicability

## The Final Rule does not expand applicability to the bus transit industry

- In the NPRM, FTA did not propose extending mandatory applicability to the bus transit industry.
  - FTA sought **industry input** on whether mandatory requirements of the rule should extend to bus transit agencies and personnel.
  - FTA received comments both in support and against expansion of applicability to the bus transit industry.



# Next Steps

## New administrative requirement for SSOA and RTA point of contact and semiannual reporting

- Many SSOAs and RTAs have already established a point of contact for correspondence with FTA regarding the PTSCTP
  - Agencies may update their point of contact at any time by contacting [FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov](mailto:FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov)
- FTA will provide a template and process for SSOA and RTA points of contact to use when submitting semiannual reports to FTA.
- Semiannual reports will include:
  - Confirmation of designated personnel status
  - Confirmation of agency identified recertification training courses or activities

# Next Steps (continued)

## New recertification training requirement established by FTA

- FTA expects SSOAs and RTAs to continue to comply with the PTSCTP regulation requirements in effect as of August 20, 2018, including requirements to maintain PTSCTP certification
- A new recertification requirement will become effective November 1, 2024
  - FTA-defined recertification training will provide agencies with relevant updates regarding FTA regulations, notices, directives, and best practices
  - This training will be made available to participants prior to November 1, 2024

# PTSCTP Markup

This document lists the changes to the PTSCTP regulation (49 CFR Part 672) published in 2024. Changes are noted in red text.



The screenshot displays the Federal Transit Administration website. At the top, the United States Department of Transportation logo and the Federal Transit Administration logo are visible, along with a search bar and navigation links for 'About', 'Funding', and 'Regulations & Programs'. A left-hand navigation menu includes links for 'Home', 'Transit Safety & Oversight', 'Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans', 'Safety Rulemaking', 'Safety Guidance', 'State Safety Oversight Program', 'Safety Management Inspections', 'Drug & Alcohol Program', and 'Program Oversight'. The main content area features the title 'Proposed Changes to PTSCTP Requirements at 49 CFR 672' and a 'Document' section with a PDF icon and the filename '49-CFR-672-Changes-August-2024.pdf (209.33 KB)'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'This document lists the proposed changes to the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program requirements (49 CFR Part 672). Changes are noted in red text.' A date stamp reads 'Last updated: Wednesday, September 4, 2024'. At the bottom, a disclaimer states: 'DOT is committed to ensuring that information is available in appropriate alternative formats to meet the requirements of persons who have a disability. If you require an alternative version of files provided on this page, please contact [FTAWebAccessibility@dot.gov](mailto:FTAWebAccessibility@dot.gov).'

# PTSCTP Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ covers new PTSCTP regulation requirements included in the PTSCTP final rule published on August 14, 2024.



A screenshot of the Federal Transit Administration website. The header includes the United States Department of Transportation logo and the Federal Transit Administration logo, along with a search bar and navigation links for 'About', 'Funding', and 'Regulations &amp; Programs'. A left-hand navigation menu lists categories such as 'Transit Safety &amp; Oversight', 'Public Transportation Agency Safety Plans', 'Safety Rulemaking', 'Safety Guidance', 'State Safety Oversight Program', and 'Safety Management Inspections'. The main content area features the title 'Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (PTSCTP) Frequently Asked Questions' and an 'Overview' section. The overview text states: 'These frequently asked questions (FAQs) cover the Public Transportation Safety Certification Training Program (PTSCTP) regulation at 49 CFR 672. The PTSCTP regulation establishes minimum safety training requirements for State Safety Oversight Agency (SSOA) employees and contractors who conduct reviews, inspections, examinations and other safety oversight activities of public transportation systems and employees and contractors who are directly responsible for the safety oversight of a rail fixed guideway public transportation system. These FAQs include new PTSCTP regulation requirements included in the PTSCTP final rule published on August 14, 2024 (effective November 1, 2024). Please direct any questions to FTASafetyPromotion@dot.gov.' The page number '15' is visible at the bottom left of the screenshot.

# Questions

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