

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Federal Transit Administration**

**Special Directive No. 18-2**

**Special Directive Under 49 U.S.C. § 5329 and 49 C.F.R. Part 670  
Required Actions in Response to Tri-State Oversight Committee Triennial Review Safety  
Findings at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority**

**AGENCY:** Federal Transit Administration (FTA), U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

**SUMMARY:** The FTA issues Special Directive 18-2 to require the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to address safety findings identified by the Tri-State Oversight Committee (TOC) as part of its implementation of the scheduled triennial review process required by 49 C.F.R. Part 659 (Part 659). This Special Directive mandates that WMATA complete 24 required actions within the Metrorail system to address safety findings in six distinct categories of review: (4) fitness for duty programs; (2) hazard management, accident investigation, and data collection/analysis; (2) system modification, safety certification, configuration management, and procurement; (12) roadway worker protection; (3) elevator and escalator maintenance, and (1) maintenance facility safety and equipment inspections.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:** For program matters, Jamie Pfister, Director, FTA WMATA Safety Oversight Office, telephone (202) 366-5424 or [Jamie.Pfister@dot.gov](mailto:Jamie.Pfister@dot.gov); for legal matters, Candace Key, Attorney Advisor, FTA, telephone (202) 366-9178 or [Candace.Key@dot.gov](mailto:Candace.Key@dot.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Background**

Safety Directive 16-1, issued on October 26, 2015, establishes FTA's role in providing temporary direct oversight of the safety of the WMATA Metrorail system until the District of Columbia, State of Maryland, and Commonwealth of Virginia establish a State Safety Oversight (SSO) program that complies with requirements at 49 C.F.R. Part 674 (Part 674) and can be certified by the FTA. Safety Directive 16-1 also outlines how FTA will exercise leadership over the three jurisdictions' existing SSO agency, TOC, as part of FTA's oversight program, and confirms TOC's role in continuing to perform triennial reviews required under Part 659.

Part 659 requires TOC to conduct an on-site safety review of each element of the WMATA System Safety Program Plan (SSPP) and Security and Emergency Preparedness Plan (SEPP) at least once every three years. To address the results of the TOC's triennial review process, FTA assessed 227 findings identified by TOC since October 2015 against open FTA-approved Corrective Action Plans (CAP), FTA inspection reports and open remedial actions, and against the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 659.29. FTA conducted an analysis of the 227 TOC findings and has disposed of them as follows: