The Federal Claims Collection Act ("FCCA") authorizes the FRA to either compromise or cause collection action to be terminated or suspended on claims which do not exceed $20,000, exclusive of interest. This authority, however, shall not be exercised with respect to a claim as to which there is an indication of fraud, the presentation of a false claim or misrepresentation on the part of the railroad.

Compromise shall be final and conclusive except if procured by fraud, misrepresentation, the presentation of a false claim, or mutual mistake of fact.

Nothing in the FCCA is to be construed as either increasing or diminishing the existing authority of FRA to litigate claims or to diminish existing authority to settle, compromise or close claims.

As it applies to penalties for railroad safety violations, the FCCA has been limited by the Federal Railroad Safety Act of 1970, the Safety Appliance Acts, Signal Inspection Act, and the Locomotive Inspection Act. Under FCCA, the Secretary of Transportation may not compromise any civil penalty for a violation of these safety Acts or regulations issued under these laws for less than $250 for each violation.

31 U.S.C. § 3711