NORTHEAST CORRIDOR RAILROADS - REQUIREMENTS FOR AUTOMATIC TRAIN CONTROL AND ADVANCED CIVIL SPEED ENFORCEMENT SYSTEM

On July 22, 1998 the FRA issued an order requiring all trains operating on the Northeast Corridor between New Haven, Conn and Boston to be equipped to respond to a new advanced civil speed enforcement system (ACSES) in addition to the automatic train control (ATC) system already required on the NEC. On trains operating between Washington, D.C. and New York City, ACSES equipped trains may operate up to speeds of 135 mph. Trains north of N.Y. may operate up to 150 mph.

The ACSES is an improved system utilizing transponders to enforce speed restrictions. If the engineer fails to respond to the speed requirements provided by the ACSES, the train would automatically brake.

Amtrak’s cab signal system will be expanded from 4 aspects to 9 aspects of speed indications.

Maximum operating speed of 80 mph is set over any highway-rail crossing where only conventional warning systems are in place, and 95 mph where 4-quadrant gates and presence detection are provided.

Unequipped freight operations are allowed between New Haven and Boston during low volume night hours.

63 Fed. Reg. 39343
FRA Docket No. 87-2