



CHATTANOOGA, TN

RAILROAD TRACK INSPECTION & SAFETY STANDARDS

Track is the foundation of the railroad’s physical plant. Although railroad track components are relatively simple in concept, they interact in a complex fashion to form a system capable of withstanding the extremely large forces applied by rail vehicles. Safe and reliable train operations rely upon the track system remaining within established specifications. Because the combined effects of traffic and environment degrade track, regular inspection is essential to identify defects and initiate remedial action before problems develop. This course describes track defects and acceptable corrective actions, presents a recommended methodology for conducting inspections, and discusses in depth the Federal Track Safety Standards in 49 CFR, Part 213.

This course has been reviewed and approved by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) under CFR Part 243 of the new training rule. This course is intended for safety-related railroad employees or independent students who seek employment with a railroad and/or a railroad contractor and who may be tasked with the application of Federal regulation 49 DFR Part 213, Track Safety Standards, Subparts A-F. The course does not contain an on-the-job training (OJT component). This is the only comprehensive course on track inspection providing sufficient time to discuss this complex subject in detail and to demonstrate the measurement techniques needed. Hundreds of attendees through the years have increased their understanding of the track inspection process as a result of this class.

PDHs AVAILABLE

27 PDHs (Professional Development Hours) are available for those completing the course. All attendees who successfully finish the course receive a certificate of completion.

EQUIPMENT

Because this workshop is designed to be hands-on, registrants should bring approved safety footwear for field track inspection activities. Attendees who possess track inspection tools, such as a track level or stringline, are encouraged to bring them. Pocket calculators will be helpful in certain exercises. Field exercises are conducted rain or shine.

EXPERT INSTRUCTOR

Dr. David Clarke, Ph.D., P.E., Director Emeritus of the UT Center for Transportation Research, brings nearly 40 years of experience encompassing a variety of railroad design, inspection, research and education activities. As a licensed civil engineer, Dr. Clarke prepares specifications and designs for railroad track construction and maintenance.

DATES

March 16-20, 2026
June 8-12, 2026
November 2-6, 2026

Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum
8:00am-5:00pm/11:00am

COURSE FEE

\$1,145
per attendee

This 4.5 day workshop includes classroom lecture, exercises and field track inspection activities.

Please call 865-974-5255 for more information or if you are interested in hosting a class in your area.

REGISTER NOW

ttap.utk.edu/course-calendar
865-974-5255
TTAP@utk.edu

