

## Appendix B – Definitions used in the PTASP

### § 673.5 - Definitions.

As used in this part:

**Accident** means an Event that involves any of the following: A loss of life; a report of a serious injury to a person; a collision of public transportation vehicles; a runaway train; an evacuation for life safety reasons; or any derailment of a rail transit vehicle, at any location, at any time, whatever the cause.

**Accountable Executive** means a single, identifiable person who has ultimate responsibility for carrying out the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan of a public transportation agency; responsibility for carrying out the agency's Transit Asset Management Plan; and control or direction over the human and capital resources needed to develop and maintain both the agency's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan, in accordance with [49 U.S.C. 5329\(d\)](#), and the agency's Transit Asset Management Plan in accordance with [49 U.S.C. 5326](#).

**Chief Safety Officer** means an adequately trained individual who has responsibility for safety and reports directly to a transit agency's chief executive officer, general manager, president, or equivalent officer. A Chief Safety Officer may not serve in other operational or maintenance capacities, unless the Chief Safety Officer is employed by a transit agency that is a small public transportation provider as defined in this part, or a public transportation provider that does not operate a rail fixed guideway public transportation system.

**Event** means any Accident, Incident, or Occurrence.

**FTA** means the Federal Transit Administration, an operating administration within the United States Department of Transportation.

**Hazard** means any real or potential condition that can cause injury, illness, or death; damage to or loss of the facilities, equipment, rolling stock, or infrastructure of a public transportation system; or damage to the environment.

**Incident** means an event that involves any of the following: A personal injury that is not a serious injury; one or more injuries requiring medical transport; or damage to facilities, equipment, rolling stock, or infrastructure that disrupts the operations of a transit agency.

**Investigation** means the process of determining the causal and contributing factors of an accident, incident, or hazard, for the purpose of preventing recurrence and mitigating risk.

**National Public Transportation Safety Plan** means the plan to improve the safety of all public transportation systems that receive Federal financial assistance under [49 U.S.C. Chapter 53](#).

**Occurrence** means an Event without any personal injury in which any damage to facilities, equipment, rolling stock, or infrastructure does not disrupt the operations of a transit agency.

**Performance measure** means an expression based on a quantifiable indicator of performance or condition that is used to establish targets and to assess progress toward meeting the established targets.

**Performance target** means a quantifiable level of performance or condition, expressed as a value for the measure, to be achieved within a time period required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

**Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan** means the documented comprehensive agency safety plan for a transit agency that is required by [49 U.S.C. 5329](#) and this part.

**Risk** means the composite of predicted severity and likelihood of the potential effect of a hazard.

**Risk mitigation** means a method or methods to eliminate or reduce the effects of hazards.

**Safety Assurance** means processes within a transit agency's Safety Management System that functions to ensure the implementation and effectiveness of safety risk mitigation, and to ensure that the transit agency meets or exceeds its safety objectives through the collection, analysis, and assessment of information.

**Safety Management Policy** means a transit agency's documented commitment to safety, which defines the transit agency's safety objectives and the accountabilities and responsibilities of its employees in regard to safety.

**Safety Management System (SMS)** means the formal, top-down, organization-wide approach to managing safety risk and assuring the effectiveness of a transit agency's safety risk mitigation. SMS includes systematic procedures, practices, and policies for managing risks and hazards.

**Safety Management System (SMS) Executive** means a Chief Safety Officer or an equivalent.

**Safety performance target** means a Performance Target related to safety management activities.

**Safety Promotion** means a combination of training and communication of safety information to support SMS as applied to the transit agency's public transportation system.

**Safety risk assessment** means the formal activity whereby a transit agency determines Safety Risk Management priorities by establishing the significance or value of its safety risks.

**Safety Risk Management** means a process within a transit agency's Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for identifying hazards and analyzing, assessing, and mitigating safety risk.

Serious injury means any injury which:

- (1) Requires hospitalization for more than 48 hours, commencing within 7 days from the date of the injury was received;
- (2) Results in a fracture of any bone (except simple fractures of fingers, toes, or noses);
- (3) Causes severe hemorrhages, nerve, muscle, or tendon damage;
- (4) Involves any internal organ; or
- (5) Involves second- or third-degree burns, or any burns affecting more than 5 percent of the body surface.

**State** means a State of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands.

**State of good repair** means the condition in which a capital asset is able to operate at a full level of performance.

**State Safety Oversight Agency** means an agency established by a State that meets the requirements and performs the functions specified by [49 U.S.C. 5329\(e\)](#) and the regulations set forth in [49 CFR part 674](#).

**Transit agency** means an operator of a public transportation system.

**Transit Asset Management Plan** means the strategic and systematic practice of procuring, operating, inspecting, maintaining, rehabilitating, and replacing transit capital assets to manage their performance, risks, and costs over their life cycles, for the purpose of providing safe, cost-effective, and reliable public transportation, as required by [49 U.S.C. 5326](#) and [49 CFR part 625](#).