



1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

U.S. Department  
Of Transportation

Federal Railroad  
Administration

Mr. Kirk Gill  
Sr. Manager of Regulatory Affairs  
CN Railroad  
17650 S. Ashland Ave.  
Homewood, IL 60430

December 17th, 2020

Dear Mr. Gill:

This letter responds to the Canadian National Railway (CN) submission dated September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) seeking approval of its material modifications to the CN Conductor Certification Program received by FRA on September 1st, 2020. FRA's procedures for submission and approval of programs is described in appendix B to 49 CFR part 242. FRA reviewed the railroad's program modification and determined that the railroad's program modification conforms with the requirements of 49 CFR part 242 for the reasons discussed below.

Your submission package states that on September 1st, 2020, the railroad provided a copy of its program to BLE and SMART labor organization presidents representing the railroad's employees. FRA received no comments on the program by the labor organizations.

The program modifications are consistent with the model of the previously approved for Class I railroad programs. FRA understands that the modifications are intended to provide more detail to the conductor certification process and update contact information. Additional modifications to the submission also addressed deficiencies with the standard requirements of 49 CFR part 242, appendix B.

FRA notes that two of your railroad human factors reportable categories, improperly lined switches and shove movements without point protection have decreased more than 65% between 2019 and 2020. Please continue in your efforts to improve railroad safety on your system.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this submission at (202) 393-0978 or [FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov](mailto:FRAOPCERTPROG@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

Christian Holt  
Operating Practices Staff Director