



Maura Healey, Governor
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Gina Fiandaca, Secretary & CEO
Jeffrey Gonneville, Interim General Manager



Questions & Answer Session

MBTA Contractor Briefing

Presentation by: Katie Choe, MBTA Chief of Quality, Compliance & Oversight

February 15, 2023, 5:00 p.m. Via Teams Video Conference

February 16, 2023, 3:00 p.m. Via Teams Video Conference

February 15, 2023 Contractor Briefing: (Approximately 116 attendees)

Q. Do vests AND jackets need to have the high-vis “X” pattern on the back and be break-away?

A. The PPE spec requires a high-res “X” worn on the back regardless of what clothing is worn. If the jacket does not have the X, you can wear a large vest with the X over the jacket. All vests must be break-away, but Jackets do not have to be break-away.

Q. Will a copy of presentation posted online?

A. Yes, a copy of the Feb. 15 and 16, 2023, Contractor Briefing has been posted on www.mbta.com/Engineering.

Q. Can you please state who the MBTA boot contractor is?

A. SAF-GARD Safety Shoe Company was competitively procured by the MBTA. They were willing to set up a portal to ensure selections are compliant. The MBTA does not prescribe preferred vendors.

Q. Will QCO become the Accountable Representative for SMS for the MBTA?

A. No, the MBTA General Manager will remain the Accountable Representative for SMS.

Q. Can QCO help establish an easier way to get in touch with MBTA Safety?

A. Yes, thank you for the suggestion, we will look into a more streamlined way of contacting MBTA Safety.

Q. Can you make safety rules easier to find?

A. Yes. We have established a new website for contractors to find the latest safety policies, rules, and procedures. As requirements change, we will post new information at www.mbta.com/engineering for more details.

Q. Do puncture resistant insoles meet the new MBTA requirement for puncture resistant boots?

A. We will consult OSHA and share the response.

Q. Do contractors need a Safety Supervisor for a bridge inspection?

A. Yes, contractors are required to have Safety Supervisor for bridge inspections.

Q. Is a work boot with a heel sufficient or do all boots need to be at least 6 inches in height.

A. All boots need a defined heel and also need to be at least 6 inches in height. For the complete specification on boots, see Special Order 22-244 at www.mbtta.com/engineering.

Q. Who are the preferred vendors for whistles and flashlights?

A. The MBTA does not recommend preferred vendors. For whistle and flashlight specifications visit Special Order 22-244 at www.mbtta.com/engineering

Q. Is there a preference for laced vs pull-on boots?

A. The MBTA does not have a preference for laced vs pull-n boots. For the specs, visit Special Order 22-244 at www.mbtta.com/engineering

Q. Is there an email for QCO?

A. Yes, QCOO@mbta.com. Email any further questions.

Q. Is there a single location for approval of lift plans? Can we get one? It is timely and hard to find.

A. Thank you for the suggestion. QCO will look into this and share the outcome.

Q. QCO's task is a large undertaking from a contractor perspective. Is there a one-source shop where we can gather information?

A. Yes, there are two places: (1) The first is our FTA Safety Management Inspection Response page which provides a comprehensive overview of QCO's progress in meeting our objectives, www.mbtta.com/FTAResponse. (2) Mentioned above, contractors can also visit our contractor page for the latest safety policies, rules, and procedures at www.mbtta.com/engineering.

Q. Are there any QCO changes to MBTA Commuter Rail and Amtrak?

A. Commuter rail and Amtrak are not covered by the FTA Safety Management Inspection, however, there may be places where we develop best practices that work in all rail services, including Commuter Rail and Amtrak. FRA requirements like drug testing is not expected to be affected.

Comment (Katie Choe): The FTA Safety Management Inspection response is not something we will be over in 6 months. There will be a lot of change over a long term.

February 15, 2023 Contractor Briefing: (Approximately 75 Attendees)

Q. Could you please repeat the 2 imminent PPE timeframes?

A. February 1, 2023, is the deadline for minimum PPE compliance on the ROW, and March 1, 2023, is the deadline for compliance with the new boot requirements when on the ROW. See Special Orders 22-244 and 250 at www.mbta.com/engineering.

Q. Are lace-up boots required?

A. No, it is left to personal preference.

Q. Is the Safety Booklet required to be carried on person?

A. No, it is not required to be on the person. You do have to carry it on Commuter Rail.

Q. Can we get a copy of these slides?

A. Yes, the specs will be emailed and posted on www.mbta.com/engineering

Q. How often is ROW training held, and how is it scheduled?

A. The same methods as used in the past.

Q. Are the new PPE requirements also for commuter rail?

A. Commuter rail and Amtrak are not covered by the FTA Safety Management Inspection, however, there may be places where we develop best practices that work in all rail services, including Commuter Rail and Amtrak. FRA requirements like drug testing is not expected to be affected.

Q. Can we get vest and boot specs emailed out?

A. Yes, the specs will be emailed and posted on www.mbta.com/engineering

Q. Can I be added to the communication list for these meetings?

A. Yes, we will add new requests through Capital Programs and Contract Administration.

Q. What is the procedure for work that will be coming out of the QCO office?

A. All QCO work will go out through competitive bid.

Q. Are flashlights required to be metal free?

A. The outer portion of flashlights should be plastic, but internal components can have metal. Refer to SO-22-244 for specifications, posted at www.mbta.com/engineering.

Q. Is there a face shield requirement?

A. No, there is not a face shield requirement. The new PPE specifications issued is the minimum PPE requirement. Various work requires additional PPE.

Q. Are flat bottom sole allowed?

A. No, you need a defined heel due to work on ladders etc. See the specifications on Special Order 22-244 posted at www.mbta.com/engineering.

Q. How soon will solicitations for work commence?

A. QCO tech support is already underway. We are in the thick of the procurement on additional work.

Q. Is there a way to monitor the solicitations?

A. Yes, the business center on www.mbta.com/business.

Q. Do the PPE requirements apply to private tour groups as well?

A. Yes, if you are in ROW, then you need to comply with the PPE in the spec.

Q. Is the intent that PPE should be ANSI /ASTM /NFPA certified, or is the intent to meet the minimum requirements but might not be certified?

A. The specs are in the policy. If it's not certified, it's not compliant.

Q. In the past, there has been leniency regarding having a ROW physical card (case by case, non-standard). A photo may be acceptable. Is this still the case?

A. No, the employee must have their ROW card on their person while on the ROW. There will be inspections. You can be challenged by any employee, and you will be removed from the ROW if you do not have fully compliant PPE or valid, unexpired certifications.

Q. Can the MBTA provide a sample list of acceptable boot manufacturers and models. Can this be done?

A. The MBTA does not have a sample or preferred list of manufacturers. The MBTA procured Saf-Gard Safety Shoe Company through a competitive bid process. Saf-gard will put up a contractor portal should you find it helpful. We recommend bringing the spec in [Special Order 22-244](#) to your preferred supplier so they can ensure the boots are compliant.

Q. Will we be able to retrofit boot with insole?

A. We will get an answer to this group. Shoot QCOO@MBTA.com a note if you have questions and would like an answer to this question. We will confirm with OSHA.

Q. As part of the new requirements regarding MBTA Railroad Qualified Safety Supervisors, Section 01568 states the OSHA 30 is required - can you confirm this is the Construction OSHA 30, not the General Industry OSHA 30?

A. OSHA 10 is the minimum requirement for the MBTA.

Q. Could you clarify right of way, my understanding is the MBTA considers working on their property as ROW?

A. ROW includes the property over which trains and authorized rail equipment operate, and ten feet from the centerline of track in any direction, including sidings and yards (ROW Safety Rulebook 3rd Edition July 2014). This does not apply to car houses.

Q. Can you speak to the Commuter Rail Safety Directive, specifically the requirement of a Safety Supervisor. Will this be a requirement for Heavy and Light rail too?

A. A Safety Supervisor is required on all heavy and light rail. The new requirements do not change the Safety Supervisor requirements already in place.

[Please send further questions to <mailto:QCOO@MBTA.com>]

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