Follow-up information requested by the Committee on Report 21, (readopted in the 44th Parliament), Follow-up Audit on Rail Safety – Transport Canada, of the 2021 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada

The 2021-2022 railway companies' compliance rates with regulations, no later than June 15, 2023

Response:

Transport Canada's Rail Safety program verifies that the rail companies operating in Canada comply with the Railway Safety Act, rules, regulations, and standards. The program meets this goal mostly through inspections and audits.

Rail Safety's oversight planning continues to be risk-driven as determined by the analysis of data from the Transportation Safety Board (TSB), railway companies under the Transportation Information Regulation (TIRS), and inspections conducted by Rail Safety Inspectors. Transport Canada calculated compliance rates for fiscal year 2021-22, finding an overall compliance rate of 95 percent (%), which is broken down into specific categories, including:

- operations (99% compliance);
- track (95% compliance);
- equipment (78% compliance);
- signals (96% compliance) and
- crossings (98% compliance).

Compliance rates and other performance indicators are used to track progress over time and assess the effectiveness of the rail safety regulatory and oversight framework, and to inform ongoing risk-based oversight activities.

An overview of Rail Safety's risk-based oversight program is available here:

Rail Safety – Oversight Program Description And Delivery - Fiscal Year 2022 to 2023 (canada.ca)