

**PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bob Coakley  
Director Sales and Marketing  
Nordco Inc.  
245 W. Forest Hill Ave.  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154  
414-766-2182  
[bcoakley@nordco.com](mailto:bcoakley@nordco.com)

**NORDCO ANNOUNCES COMPLIANCE WITH NEW FEDERAL RAILROAD ASSOCIATION (FRA)  
OPERATOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**



On January 24, 2014, the Federal Railroad Association (FRA) released 49 CFR Part 213 (Track Safety Standards; Improving Rail Integrity; Final Rule). The new regulations specify stringent training requirements for all operators performing rail flaw inspections, including the following statement:

*The final rule adds a new provision requiring that each provider of rail flaw detection have a documented training program to ensure that a flaw detection equipment operator is qualified to operate each of the various types of equipment utilized in the industry for which he or she is assigned to operate. For a rail flaw detection test to be*

*valid, the test must be performed by a qualified operator. Qualified operators are, in turn, subject to minimum training, evaluation, and documentation requirements to help ensure the validity of a rail flaw detection test. It is responsibility of the track owner to reasonably ensure the any provider of rail flaw detection is in compliance with these training and qualification requirements.*

Nordco is pleased to confirm that all its rail flaw detection operators are certified in non-destructive training following the American Society of Nondestructive Testing (ASNT) SNT-TC-1A requirements. Nordco trains and certifies its operators for NDT levels I-III. Each training course includes 40 hours of classroom training, plus a certification test. Training (classroom and field) records for each operator are constantly maintained and are available for track owner review at any time. In addition, Nordco thoroughly trains its operators on the operation, setup, and maintenance of all Nordco equipment.

According to Pat Graham, President of Nordco Rail Services and Inspection Technologies, “we are committed to providing the best-trained rail flaw detection operators in the industry. Our dedicated training department is constantly evaluating its training materials and methods to ensure that our operators do the best possible job for our customers.”

Nordco Rail Services and Inspection Technologies is a leader in non-destructive testing solutions for railroads and other industries. Its rail flaw detection systems include the compact and portable Flex system, rail flaw inspection vehicles, portable inspection systems, as well as rail-bound and wheel inspection systems. The patented ultrasonic wheel probe includes nine complementary high-frequency transducers – the most integrated transducers in one unit in the industry – that search for flaws in transverse, longitudinal, and oblique directions. In addition, Nordco provides a broad range of rail inspection-related services, including rail flaw inspection, U/T certification of replacement rail, crossover testing, data management, and NDT training/certification.

## **ABOUT NORDCO**

The Nordco family of companies provides an extensive selection of products and services that make it possible for rail-related industries to build, improve, maintain and inspect their track infrastructure and move rolling stock. Nordco, headquartered in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, has a long history as a manufacturer of new and rebuilt railroad Maintenance-of-Way Machinery. Today the company's product line includes in-house and on-site machinery inspection and repair; reconditioned machinery rental; mobile railcar movers; ultrasonic rail flaw testing equipment and services for railroads and other industries; and replacement parts.

Nordco operates manufacturing facilities in Oak Creek, Wisconsin; Ridgefield, Connecticut; Grandview, Missouri; and Arcola, Illinois.

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