

the total amount to be collected) by the total number of employee hours reported to the FRA for the previous calendar year. The result will be the railroad user fee rate per employee hour for the fiscal year.

(iii) The assessment rate per road mile will be calculated in three steps. First, FRA will determine a preliminary assessment rate per road mile by multiplying the total costs of administering the Safety Act by 0.35 and dividing this amount (i.e., thirty-five percent of the total amount to be collected) by the total road miles reported to FRA for the previous calendar year. Second, FRA will adjust this preliminary rate per road mile for each light density railroad by multiplying the preliminary rate by the appropriate scaling factor identified in §245.5(h). The result will be a reduced assessment rate per road mile for light density railroads. Third, FRA will adjust the preliminary assessment rate per road mile for all railroads except light density railroads by adding to their preliminary rate an incremental amount reflecting the reallocation of the relief provided to light density railroads under step 2 using the sliding scale. The incremental amount is calculated by subtracting (A) the total amount to be collected from light density railroads after application of the sliding scale from (B) the total amount that would have been collected from light density railroads using the preliminary assessment rate and developed under step 1 and (C) dividing the resulting amount by the total road miles reported to FRA by all railroads except light density railroads. The incremental amount is then added to the preliminary assessment rate for all railroads except light density railroads to derive the assessment rate per road mile for all railroads except light density railroads. The results will be a modified assessment rate per road mile for light density railroads qualifying under step 2 and a general assessment rate applicable to all other railroads. In those cases where the computed fee is less than the defined minimum, the net increase attributable to the application of the minimum standard is not included in the reallocation process

under step 3 and is instead added to total collections.

(b) The user fee to be paid by each covered railroad is the greater of \$500.00 or the sum of the railroad's train miles times the assessment rate per train mile, the railroad's employee hours times the assessment rate per employee hour, and the railroad's road miles times the applicable assessment rate per road mile.

### Subpart D—Collection Procedures and Duty to Pay

#### § 245.301 Collection procedures.

(a) After March 15th of each year (August 15th for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1992), FRA will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice containing FRA's preliminary estimates of the total user fee to be collected, the assessment rate per train mile, the assessment rate per employee hour, and the assessment rate per road mile (as adjusted by the sliding scale). The information published by FRA will be sufficient to enable each railroad to calculate its estimated user fee bill for the fiscal year on the basis of the train mile, employee hour, and road mile information provided by the railroad to FRA.

(b) After June 1st of each year, (August 15th for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1992), FRA will provide to each covered railroad a notice (the "Assessment Notice") containing FRA's final calculations of the total user fee to be collected, the assessment rate per train mile, the assessment rate per employee hour, the assessment rate per road mile (as adjusted by the sliding scale), the train miles, employee hours, and road miles for the railroad for the prior calendar year, the user fee to be paid by the railroad, and a statement and payment record form. FRA will mail the Assessment Notice sufficiently in advance of the end of the fiscal year in order to allow all collections to be completed prior to the end of the fiscal year. FRA will mail the Assessment Notice to the billing address designated by the railroad on FRA Form 6180.91—Annual Report of Railroads Subject to User Fees.