(2) Each comment shall be submitted to the DOT Central Docket Management System, Nassif Building, Room Pl–401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, and shall contain the assigned docket number which appears in the FEDERAL REGISTER for that proceeding. Such submission may be in written or electronic form consistent with the standards and requirements established by the Central Docket Management System and posted on its Web site at *http://dms.dot.gov*.

(3) In the event FRA determines that it requires additional information to appropriately consider the petition, FRA will conduct a hearing on the petition in accordance with the procedures provided in §211.25 of this chapter.

(e) *Disposition of petitions.* (1) If FRA finds that the petition complies with the requirements of this section and that the proposed alternative standard is acceptable or changes are justified, or both, the petition will be granted, normally within 90 days of its receipt. The Associate Administrator may determine the applicability of other technical requirements of this part when rendering a decision on the petition. If the petition is neither granted nor denied within 90 days, the petition remains pending for decision. FRA may attach special conditions to the approval of the petition. Following the approval of a petition, FRA may reopen consideration of the petition for cause stated.

(2) If FRA finds that the petition does not comply with the requirements of this section, or that the proposed alternative standard is not acceptable or that the proposed changes are not justified, or both, the petition will be denied, normally within 90 days of its receipt.

(3) When FRA grants or denies a petition, or reopens consideration of a petition, written notice is sent to the petitioner and other interested parties and a copy of the notice is placed in the electronic docket of the proceeding.

Subpart B—Application, Inspection, and Maintenance of Retroreflective Material

§ 224.101 General requirements.

All rail freight rolling stock subject to this part shall be equipped with retroreflective sheeting that conforms to the requirements of this part. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the application, inspection, and maintenance of that sheeting shall be conducted in accordance with this subpart or in accordance with an alternative standard providing at least an equivalent level of safety after special approval of FRA under §224.15.

§ 224.103 Characteristics of retroreflective sheeting.

(a) *Construction.* Retroreflective sheeting applied pursuant to this part shall consist of a smooth, flat, transparent exterior film with microprismatic retroreflective elements embedded in or suspended beneath the film so as to form a non-exposed retroreflective optical system.

(b) *Color.* Retroreflective sheeting applied pursuant to this part shall be yellow or white as specified by the chromaticity coordinates of ASTM International's Standard D 4956–01a, ''Standard Specification for Retroreflective Sheeting for Traffic Control.'' The Director of the Federal Register approves the incorporation by reference of this standard in this section in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. You may obtain a copy of the incorporated standard from ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428–2959. You may inspect a copy of the incorporated standard at the Federal Railroad Administration, Docket Clerk, 1120 Vermont Ave., NW., Suite 7000, or at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202–741–6030, or go to *http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html*.

(c) *Performance.* Retroreflective sheeting applied pursuant to this part shall meet the requirements of ASTM D 4956–01a, for Type V Sheeting, except

for the photometric requirements, and shall, as initially applied, meet the minimum photometric performance requirements specified in Table 1 of this subpart.

TABLE 1 OF SUBPART B—MINIMUM PHOTOMETRIC PERFORMANCE (COEFFICIENT OF RETROREFLECTION (R_A) IN CANDELA/LUX/METER^2) REQUIREMENT FOR RETROREFLECTIVE SHEETING

Entrance angle	Observation angle			
	0.2 Degree		0.5 Degree	
	Yellow	White	Yellow	White
−4°	400	600	100	160
30°	220	350	45	75

(d) *Certification.* The characters ''FRA–224'', constituting the manufacturer's certification that the retroreflective sheeting conforms to the requirements of paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section, shall appear at least once on the exposed surface of each piece of sheeting in the final application. The characters shall be a minimum of three millimeters high, and shall be permanently stamped, etched, molded, or printed within the product and each certification shall be spaced no more than four inches apart.

(e) *Alternative standards.* Upon petition by a freight rolling stock owner or railroad under § 224.15, the Associate Administrator may approve an alternative technology as providing equivalent safety. Any such petition shall provide data and analysis sufficient to establish that the technology will result in conspicuity and durability at least equal to sheeting described in paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section applied in accordance with this part and will present a recognizable visual target that is suitably consistent with freight rolling stock equipped with retroreflective sheeting that meets the technical requirements of this part to provide the intended warning to motorists.

§ 224.105 Sheeting dimensions and quantity.

Retroreflective sheeting shall be applied along the length of each railroad freight car and locomotive side as described in § 224.106. Retroreflective sheeting applied under this part shall be applied in strips 4 inches wide and 18 or 36 inches long, unless otherwise specified. The amount of retroreflective sheeting to be applied to each car or locomotive subject to this part is dependent on the length of the car or locomotive and the color of the sheeting. For purposes of this part, the length of a railroad freight car or locomotive is measured from endsill to endsill, exclusive of the coupler and draft gear. Each side of a railroad freight car subject to this part, including each unit of multi-unit cars, and each side of a locomotive subject to this part must be equipped with at least the minimum amount of retroreflective sheeting specified in Table 2 of this subpart.

TABLE 2 OF SUBPART B—MINIMUM QUANTITY REQUIREMENT FOR RETROREFLECTIVE SHEETING ON FREIGHT ROLLING STOCK

Freight car or locomotive length	Minimum area of retroreflective sheeting required (per car/locomotive side)—yellow sheeting (ft^2)	Minimum area of retroreflective sheeting required (per car/locomotive side)—white sheeting (ft^2)
Less than 50 ft	3.5	4
50 ft. to 60 ft	4	5
Over 60 ft. to 70 ft	4.5	5.5
Over 70 ft. to 80 ft	5	6
Over 80 ft. to 90 ft	5.5	7
Over 90 ft. to 100 ft[1]	6	7.5

[1] Freight cars or locomotives over 100 ft. in length must be equipped with an additional one-half square foot of sheeting on each side for every additional 10 feet of length.