

# Rail Defect Test Facility

## System Integration Services

**A** program co-sponsored by the Association of American Railroads and the U. S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) was established to evaluate and quantify the capability of rail flaw detection systems designed to detect rail defects. Under the jointly sponsored program, system performance qualification of rail flaw detection systems are scheduled and conducted on the Rail Defect Test Facility (RDTF), located at the Transportation Technology Center, Pueblo, Colorado, USA.

This facility was specifically developed for research and test purposes to enhance technology and verify railflaw detection system capability.

Track at the RDTF consists of two sections: one for system evaluations and one for technology development. The sections include over 5440 feet (1658 meters) of track. The system evaluation section contains several transverse defects in the railhead with small, medium, and large transverse defects and various other flaws such as vertical split heads, horizontal split heads and bolt hole cracks. The technology development

section contains a variety (over 100) of all flaw types both service and artificially induced. The track gage is between 56 and 57.5 inches (142.2 and 146.1 centimeters). Track classification is Class 3 with allowable speeds up to 40 mph (64 km/h).

### **More information:**

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