

10/4/2010

Good morning Bob,

Thank you for your message and copy of the Nippon Sharyo USA, Inc's presentation regarding a proposal to build Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) passenger equipment for the Sonoma-Martin Area Rail Transit. Upon review of the [PowerPoint presentation](#), it is impossible to determine if the proposed equipment will be "FRA Compliant". However, FRA is very familiar with the products of Nippon Sharyo – Sumitomo, and they do build passenger equipment for the North American market that has been compliant with the requirements of Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations regarding passenger equipment. However, this new design has not been reviewed by FRA for compliance. Nippon Sharyo USA has made several visits to FRA to discuss building such a vehicle, and their early drawings and specifications looked adequate. However, to fully determine the compliance of this vehicle to many different Federal safety and ADA requirements will take a rigorous review.

If you would like to initiate a full design review with FRA, please contact Mr. Wxxx Sxxxxx, Acting Staff Director, Motive Power & Equipment Division, FRA to schedule a meeting between your organization and Nippon Sharyo to begin the process. Mr. Sxxxxx may be contacted at the above e-mail address.

If you have any questions, please send them to me at the above e-mail address.

Thank you,

Gxxx Fxxxxxx
Mechanical Engineer, MP&E Division
Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance
FRA Headquarters, Washington, DC

The compliant railcars that Nippon Sharyo has built are Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) railcars that are powered by electricity being supplied via overhead power lines or a 3rd rail. The Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) railcar concept for SMART has 2 internal diesel engines that present a high fire risk to passengers, thus requiring a completely new design. (Google: "DMU Fire").

I then asked the FRA about how long this certification process takes.

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Good afternoon Bob,

It is not possible to give you a straight answer regarding how long it will take. We have worked with railroads and equipment manufacturers regarding the design of new products for several months, and others for years until they accomplished a "compliant" design.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at the above e-mail address.

Thank you,

Gxxx