

# Memo



**To:**

**From:** SOFA Working Group

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**Re:** Severe Injuries

**SOFA-defined Severe Injuries**

There were 11 SOFA-defined Severe Injuries in January 2004, the last month currently available from the Federal Railroad Administration. The 2003 total was revised downward from 116 to 114. Totals for 2002 and 2001 were revised slightly upward.

|              | 1997       | 1998       | 1999       | 2000       | 2001       | 2002       | 2003       | 2004 |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------|
| JAN          | 11         | 13         | 16         | 15         | 21         | 12         | 11         | 11   |
| FEB          | 17         | 15         | 9          | 9          | 9          | 13         | 17         |      |
| MAR          | 14         | 12         | 17         | 11         | 10         | 10         | 13         |      |
| APR          | 8          | 10         | 6          | 10         | 12         | 6          | 9          |      |
| MAY          | 6          | 12         | 8          | 8          | 12         | 14         | 9          |      |
| JUN          | 9          | 10         | 8          | 11         | 8          | 5          | 10         |      |
| JUL          | 9          | 14         | 10         | 8          | 10         | 7          | 6          |      |
| AUG          | 13         | 10         | 11         | 14         | 8          | 10         | 7          |      |
| SEP          | 10         | 11         | 15         | 10         | 20         | 12         | 5          |      |
| OCT          | 12         | 12         | 16         | 10         | 5          | 11         | 9          |      |
| NOV          | 12         | 9          | 12         | 11         | 13         | 14         | 10         |      |
| DEC          | 18         | 9          | 7          | 22         | 12         | 9          | 8          |      |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>139</b> | <b>137</b> | <b>135</b> | <b>139</b> | <b>140</b> | <b>123</b> | <b>114</b> |      |

## Amputations, an Acute Type of SOFA-defined Severe Injuries

'Severe Injuries' include **amputation**, dislocation of the neck, loss of eye, electric shock or burn, and fracture to any bone except the lower arm, fingers, foot, and toes.

'Severe Injuries' were defined<sup>1</sup> by the SOFA Working Group as (1) potentially life threatening; (2) high likelihood of permanent loss of function, permanent occupational limitation, or other permanent disability; (3) likely to result in significant work restrictions; and (4) result from a high-energy impact to the human body.

Amputations, an acute form of Severe Injuries, are shown below:

### Amputations, 1997 through 2004

|              | 1997      | 1998      | 1999      | 2000      | 2001      | 2002      | 2003      | 2004 |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|
| JAN          | 1         | 0         | 2         | 1         | 0         | 0         | 2         | 2    |
| FEB          | 0         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 2         | 1         |      |
| MAR          | 3         | 4         | 3         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 3         |      |
| APR          | 1         | 2         | 0         | 1         | 2         | 0         | 1         |      |
| MAY          | 1         | 2         | 3         | 0         | 2         | 2         | 2         |      |
| JUN          | 2         | 1         | 1         | 0         | 1         | 0         | 0         |      |
| JUL          | 1         | 5         | 1         | 0         | 4         | 0         | 1         |      |
| AUG          | 1         | 0         | 1         | 4         | 0         | 1         | 0         |      |
| SEP          | 2         | 4         | 3         | 2         | 5         | 4         | 0         |      |
| OCT          | 2         | 5         | 2         | 2         | 0         | 0         | 2         |      |
| NOV          | 2         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 3         | 0         | 1         |      |
| DEC          | 4         | 1         | 0         | 4         | 1         | 1         | 2         |      |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>19</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>15</b> |      |

<sup>1</sup> See *Severe Injuries to Train and Engine Service Employees: Data Description and Injury Characteristics*. July 2001. This report may be found on the FRA's Web site.