Riding In or On Moving Equipment

Safety Rule S-13.1.5
As amended February 4, 2009
Riding In or On Moving Equipment

Ride Cars or Equipment only if necessary and if you have determined that you can do so safely.

A. Determining Whether to Ride

- If you are entering or working in an area with a limited side clearance and cannot clearly observe the track condition because of debris, snow, ice, water, grain, or mud, do not ride on the side of the car or engine exterior. Do not position yourself between or adjacent to the structure and a moving car or engine. When determining whether cars or equipment should be ridden, consider:
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- Alternatives such as repositioning locomotive to pull instead of shove freight cars, vehicle transportation, repositioning of crew members or utilizing other employees to complete the task without having to ride moving equipment.

- Designs and configurations of freight cars that may make them unsuitable to ride.

- Selecting or repositioning other freight cars to ride.

- The different designs and configurations of the cars and equipment.

- Your physical characteristics and capabilities.

- The amount of slack in the train or switch cut.

- Applicable operating and safety rules.

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When you determine an alternative will not be used and moving Equipment will be ridden:

1. Notify the engineer.
2. Proceed only after the engineer has acknowledged that you are going to ride.
3. Complete the coupling from the ground after the movement is stopped.
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B. Riding In or On Any Cars

Comply with these requirements and restrictions for riding in or on moving equipment:

- Do not ride on the crossover platform or end ladder of any freight car except to release or apply a hand brake during a gravity switch move. When determining if riding brake platform is necessary due to a gravity switch move, consider alternatives such as using another track with switches at each end to reposition locomotive or separating the locomotives when there are two or more in the locomotive consist. When you determine an alternative will not be used, the best practice is to ride on the brake platform of the last car if it is on the trailing end in the direction of movement.

- Ride only if hand holds and stirrup configuration allow for a firm grip and erect and normal body position.

- When riding equipment, maintain a three-point contact with the equipment at all times.

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- Do not ride on any part of the coupler apparatus, center sill, side sill, end sill, or framework.
- Do not ride inside a car loaded with lumber, pipe, or other materials susceptible to shifting upon slight impact. When a flat car load of this is involved, do not ride between the end of the adjacent car and the load.
- When riding in or on moving equipment, protect against slack action.
- When duties require you to stand or move about, brace yourself and hold on firmly.
- When moving from one freight car to another, get down and walk to next car and then get on, unless engaged in maintenance activities that require movement from car to car such as rail loading and unloading, rail grinding, car top material handling, or loading and unloading wheeled equipment from flatcars.

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C. Riding In or On Flat Cars

When any type of flat car is involved:

- Ride the side of the flat car only if the car is equipped with a hand hold extending at least 18 inches above the deck of the car.

- Ride on the deck of an empty flat car, or on a TOFC/COFC flat car with an empty stanchion or table, only if you can:
  - Mount the car safely and kneel or sit as near as possible to the center of the car or the empty space.
  - Face the direction of movement.
  - Maintain a kneeling or sitting position before the equipment moves and until the equipment stops and the slack has adjusted.

- Do not walk or ride between trailers or containers loaded on flat cars.

- Do not place your hands or other parts of your body where trailers or bridge plates could move and cause injury when riding loaded TOFC/COFC flat cars.
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D. Riding on Drop-End Gondolas

- On a gondola equipped with drop ends, do not hold on to the end post, or sit or stand near the end door.

E. Riding Tank Cars

When riding any type of tank car:

- Ride with both feet in the stirrup, or one foot in the stirrup and one on the horizontal grab iron
- Do not ride on any part of the coupler apparatus, center sill, side sill, end sill, or framework
- Do not ride with both feet on the horizontal grab iron
- Do not ride the middle ladder intended for man way access

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F. Close Clearances Restrictions

Do not ride on the side of a moving car, engine or other equipment under any of the following conditions:

- Through gates or doorways
- Into, out-of or within enclosed buildings. (employees must precede the movement, if safe to do so, before entering enclosed buildings. Movements must only be made on that employee’s signal within a building)
- On industry tracks at locations where signs may be placed, advising of close clearances
- When it cannot be visually determined that equipment on an adjacent track is in the clear or behind the clearance point
- Locations that have been identified by timetable or special instructions as having a close clearance restriction
- Locations that have been identified by timetable or special instructions as having close track centers unless adjacent track is know to be clear
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Remember, alternatives such as repositioning locomotive to pull instead of shove freight cars, vehicle transportation, repositioning of crew members or utilizing other employees to complete the task without having to ride moving equipment.

- These are some examples of the proper and improper riding techniques for various cars when the alternatives recommended above have been exhausted.
Riding Tank Cars

Upright body position and firm grip
Riding Tank Cars

Both feet on grab iron on tank car not allowed.

Foot on end platform not allowed.

Both feet on grab iron on tank car not allowed.
Riding Equipment
Riding Double Stack Equipment
Riding TOFC Equipment
Riding TOFC Equipment

Not proper to ride this end of flat car. Note the low handholds on either side.
Riding TOFC Equipment

Accepted riding position for previous car. Note that there isn’t any TOFC on the equipment, the center positioning of the rider along with kneeling position.
Riding TOFC Equipment

Improper riding position. One foot in hand hold above foot stirrup and the other foot on crossover platform.
Riding TOFC Equipment

Improper riding position. Note: body is positioned on crossover platform.
Improper riding position. Not permitted on crossover platform.
Riding TOFC Equipment

Improper riding position.
Riding TOFCEquipment
Riding Equipment

Improper riding position. Not allowed on end of deck of empty flat car