

Provided by a Class One Railway  
Riding Equipment Safety Moment  
(for Informational Purposes Only)

Over the past year, we have been reviewing a different Life Critical Rule monthly. These reviews began last January by taking a deeper look at the activities associated with Riding Equipment. We are specifically choosing it again this January to honor the memory of one of our colleagues, who was tragically killed in Montreal while riding equipment. Although we perform this task numerous times in a shift, we must never lose focus while performing the activity. We must factor in winter weather conditions and the risk it may add. Take the time to ensure proper footing and remove ice as required. Remember, a lapse in focus will never happen when you think it will. New teaching moments have been included in this focus.

Listed below are the safe behaviors for Riding Equipment. We have also added “Teaching Moments” which can be viewed as a best practice but do not alter the intent of the current rules and procedures.

**SAFE BEHAVIORS:**

- Maintain a minimum of 3 points of contact. (4 points of contact is recommended).
- Be aware and protect yourself against sudden movement and slack action.



**TEACHING MOMENT:**

**EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE RIDING CORRECTLY, ALWAYS BE VIGILANT FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF UNEXPECTED SLACK ACTION AT ALL TIMES. IT MAY TAKE YOU BY SURPRISE OR BE MORE JARRING THAN YOU WERE ANTICIPATING. EVEN AT LOW SPEEDS, SLACK ACTION CAN CREATE FORCE AT LEVELS MORE THAN TWICE YOUR BODY WEIGHT.**

- Look in the direction of travel.
- When riding on equipment, face equipment and use only the steps, ladders, and handholds provided.

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**TEACHING MOMENT:**

USING THE TRAILING HAND OR CROOK OF THE ARM WILL MAXIMIZE STABILITY WHEN RIDING EQUIPMENT. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT WHEN REQUIRED TO USE THE RADIO.

- Keep feet clear of coupler, drawbar, or pin lifter / operating lever.
- Riding the outer edge of tank car platform is permitted when it is trailing end of last piece of equipment.



**TEACHING MOMENT:**

REMEMBER, WE MAY ONLY RIDE A TANK CAR PLATFORM WHEN IT IS THE TRAILING PLATFORM OF THE TRAILING CAR IN A MOVEMENT.

FOR OTHER TANK CAR RIDING OPTIONS SEE GOI 8# 12.4 RIDING EQUIPMENT

- Do not ride a flat car or inter-modal car not equipped with vertical handhold that allows an upright position.
- Do not step or jump from one freight car to another.

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TEACHING MOMENT:

WHEN CHOOSING A SIDE TO RIDE, SELECT THE SIDE THAT WILL OFFER THE BEST ESCAPE ROUTE. CHOOSING THE SIDE WITH A ROADWAY OR EMPTY TRACK IS IDEAL. EMPLOYEES CONTROLLING MOVEMENTS MUST BE COGNIZANT OF SLACK ACTION CREATED BY ROUGH TRAIN HANDLING AND DO ALL THEY CAN TO REDUCE IT.

- Do not attempt to cross over moving equipment.
- Do not ride where restricted clearances exist.



TEACHING MOMENT:

IF POSSIBLE, AVOID TRANSITIONING WHILE MOVING. ALTHOUGH WE NO LONGER DETRAIN WHILE MOVING (EXCEPT IN THE CASES OF AN EMERGENCY) MANY EMPLOYEES TEND TO TRANSITION TO THE LOWER STIRRUP BEFORE THE MOVEMENT HAS STOPPED. AVOIDING THIS WILL ENSURE THAT YOUR GRIP IS NOT COMPROMISED IF THERE IS ANY UNEXPECTED SLACK ACTION.

**APPLICABLE RULES**

Please take the time to review your GOI as it relates to “Riding Equipment” in your railway operation.

**Remember:** Always take into consideration the condition or type of car you’ll be riding. This should be reviewed prior to entraining the car. Ensure ladders, handholds and stirrups are in good condition and free of snow, ice, or any slippery substance. If you ever feel fatigued while riding equipment, stop the movement and rest if needed and walk if required. When entraining or detraining make sure the movement is stopped, slack adjusted, and the ground provides safe traction.

Take a few moments to review your GOI, “Walking or Riding Equipment Best Practices” and only ride equipment as outlined in this section. Do not add unnecessary exposures to your workday.

**NOTE:** Your GOI may not allow riding on cars, be sure to follow your companies GOI.

*Be vigilante, comply with your GOI, stay safe.*