

# SAFETY ALERT



**CSX**

June 27, 2023

## Safety Briefing – Riding Equipment

On June 26, 2023 a CSX trainee was fatally injured while directing a shoving movement at Seagirt Terminal in Baltimore, Md. This tragic incident remains under investigation and is a somber reminder that we must all remain focused and committed to maintaining situational awareness when performing critical activities.

When riding equipment, employees must be alert and prepared for slack action. Proper positioning on the equipment as well as maintaining 3-points of contact must be maintained to provide protection against unexpected slack.

**Taking the safest course of action means that we actively look to identify potential hazards and analyze the work environment in real time. We are empowered to make changes (ex: stop, slow down, reposition) to ensure the safest outcome for ourselves and our peers.**

## Critical Rule and Focus Requirements

- Always face equipment and maintain three points of contact when mounting and/or dismounting equipment
- Communicate intent to mount/dismount moving equipment to locomotive operator in order to ensure speed will not exceed 4 mph
- Always take proper position when riding a tank car
- Always dismount equipment before passing a close clearance or making a coupling
- Expect and be prepared for slack action at any time
  
- Never mount or dismount a moving tank car
- Unless equipped with two stirrups, never ride a tank car over a crossing
- Never occupy a locomotive walkway when traversing over crossings (railroad or vehicle), curves, bridges, and control points or above 20 mph
- Never dismount equipment at a location that does not provide solid footing
- Never ride the side of equipment adjacent to live tracks, main tracks sidings, close clearances or other hazards



## Points of Emphasis

- Conduct an inspection of safety appliances prior to mounting equipment/do not ride damaged equipment.
- Check footing prior to dismounting equipment/do not dismount near obstructions or in areas with poor footing.
- Be familiar, and comply with, special instructions.
- Maintain vigilance within customer facilities.
- Inspect the conditions of gates, equipment, or any aspect of customer facilities that may constitute a potential risk prior to entering.
- When working with trainees, both employees are required to ride the field side of the movement, and should not be positioned on opposite sides of the same car.
- If unfamiliar with the physical layout of a given location, inspect the location prior to riding equipment.
- **If in doubt, take the safe course – do not ride equipment.**



## Riding Intermodal Equipment

Riding intermodal equipment as shown in the manner [below] is considered to be **non-compliant** as it does not allow the employee to be prepared for unexpected movements and slack action at all times as required by **2102.1(3)**. Additionally, riding in this manner is considered to be **non-compliant** with the requirements of **2102.2(e)(b)** – as it constitutes riding the end of a car being shoved.



# **CSX Operating Requirements**

## **Rule 104.5**

Employees are responsible for the actions of employees under their instruction. They must verify those employees are:

1. Familiar with their duties,
2. Provided proper instruction, and
3. Must be in a position which provides continuous monitoring of the trainee and allows for immediate intervention and corrective action of any non-compliant or unsafe activities observed.

## **Rule 2102.1**

When riding on equipment, employees must:

1. Position body to face the equipment and look in the direction of travel,
2. Maintain 3-points of contact, keeping secure hand holds and footing,
3. Be prepared for unexpected movements and slack action at all times,
4. Ride the side of cars equipped with a horizontal grab iron at least 12 inches above the floor of the car or at least one vertical grab iron that allow an employee to stand upright.
5. Ride the side of rail cars or the trailing end of a cut of cars equipped with an end platform.
6. Ride the steps or front/rear locomotive platforms when positioned on the outside of a moving locomotive,
7. Dismount before passing a close clearance sign or reaching a close clearance,
8. Ride on the side of equipment away from live tracks, main tracks, sidings, close clearances or other hazards, and
9. Dismount equipment prior to coupling.



## **Rule 2102.2**

When riding on equipment, employees must not:

- a. Place hands, arms, or legs inside equipment with shiftable loads or near the end gates of a drop end gondola; or
- b. Occupy side locomotive walkways when:
  1. Traversing over crossings (railroad or vehicle), curves, bridges, and control points; and
  2. Above 20 mph; or
- c. Use bridge plates or container brackets as hand holds on flat cars; or
- d. Transition from one side of a car to the other while the car is moving, except in an emergency situation, or
- e. Ride:
  - a. Platform between coupled cars, or
  - b. End of cars being shoved unless the car is equipped with a riding platform that has a solid safety rail positioned between the employee and the end of the equipment, or
  - c. Couplers, draw-heads, cut levers, or cushion underframe devices, or
  - d. Bottom step of equipment when traversing highway-rail crossings at grade, or
  - e. The middle ladder of tank cars, or
  - f. The side of equipment that is adjacent to a main track or siding that is occupied with equipment, or
  - g. The following series of cars: LEWX (1000-1099), LEWX (2100-2197), DEAX (11351-11450), CIGX (802713-803211), or
  - h. Equipment other than the front steps of a locomotive when traversing from the top of a hump into the bowl tracks, or
  - i. Locomotive platforms behind the walkway chains.

## **Rule 2102.3**

When riding tank cars, employees must ensure they have a firm hand hold that prevents unintentional movement and:

- a. If only one vertical grab iron, ride with one foot in the stirrups and one foot on the end platform, or
- b. If two vertical grab irons, ride with both feet in the stirrups, or
- c. If the tank car is the rear car of a pulling movement, employees may ride the outer edge of the end platform.



## **Course Code Information**

**Course Title:** Mandatory Safety Briefing - Riding Equipment

**Course Description:** Safety Brief for employees to review the following incident: June 26, 2023, riding equipment

**Course Code:** STESBREI23