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Opening of Car Doors and Windows

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations and Amtrak Safety Rules, side doors, side windows, and trap doors must be closed and latched at all times while cars in passenger service are in motion.

It is important to review and remain familiar with critical safety rules from NRPC 4108 as amended by Employee Safety Rule Amendments (emphasis added):

3.4 When in or on locomotives, rolling stock, or equipment, *be prepared for unexpected movements or sudden stop at any time*. When moving about, observe overhead clearance and side clearance. *Maintain three points of contact*, keeping secure hand holds and footing. Use grab irons, handrails, seatbacks, luggage racks, or any other available bracing point.

3.20 *When handling a trap door:*

- a) Keep clear of latch or other pinch points, use handle when equipped.
- b) Release latch with one foot, use other foot to prevent the door from suddenly springing up.
- c) Never open or close trap door while standing on the ground.
- d) *Wait until train comes to a complete stop before descending stairs.*

3.21 *Keep vestibule doors, trap doors, and windows on in-service passenger cars closed and latched at all times unless the car is standing at a station platform.*

EXCEPTION to 3.21: Transportation employees may open *door or window* for the purpose of *monitoring arrival or departure* of train from station platform.

The exception to rule 3.21 is provided to allow compliance with Special Instructions that require monitoring of station platforms in certain circumstances. However, it is important to note that the application of rule 3.20 **prohibits** employees from monitoring arrival or departure from a station platform **from the steps of an open trap**. Therefore, **trap doors** on in-service passenger equipment **MUST** remain **closed and latched** until the car is **standing at a station platform**.

It is not always possible for rules to cover every situation, application, or equipment type. Take the safe course – whenever possible, use openable windows or the top half of Dutch doors to monitor arrival or departure from a station. If an open side door must be used, ensure the **trap door is closed** and **maintain three points of contact**.



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